

**ALPHA GAMMA RHO**  
*Beta Gamma Chapter*  
 Founded 1972  
 University of Wisconsin-Platteville

**ATP**  
**Crescent**

## Alpha Gamma Rho Hosts Annual AgFest



Guest speaker at Ag Fest: Ryan Gosch, a recruiter for Winfield Solutions through Land O'Lakes.

PLATTEVILLE, Wis. — The University of Wisconsin-Platteville Beta Gamma chapter of the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity hosted UW-Platteville's annual AgFest on Sept. 10 to get students involved with clubs and organizations in the field of Agriculture. Approximately 245 students and faculty participated in the event.

Currently at UW-Platteville, there are 19 ag-based organizations including fraternities, sororities and clubs. "AgFest is for anyone interested in any of our agricultural organizations here on campus," said Ethan Olson, vice president of Alpha Gamma Rho. "It focuses on people with agricultural backgrounds and agricultural majors but is open to anyone with an interest in agriculture."

Attendees had the opportunity to listen to guest speaker Ryan Gosch, a recruiter for Winfield Solutions through Land O'Lakes, who spoke about the importance of being involved in not only academics but also in organizations that relate to students' career interests.

"He also stressed how important internships are to not only students but also future employers," said Olson. "He deals with multiple resumes and employers each year so he knows what companies expect from students and they want both academic success and campus involvement."

Overall, members of Alpha Gamma Rho were pleased with the amount of people who came and supported the event. "It was great to see faculty attend," said Olson. "Thanks to everyone who came and made AgFest such a great success."

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## AGR Connect

The national home office has put together an online program for any brothers in order to help them learn more about the fraternity. AGR Connect is slowly being incorporated throughout different chapters. It can be used as a tool to allow individuals to keep in touch with other chapters and to help track down lost brothers. It also shows the different leadership positions that each chapter has. This is located on the national home office website at [alphagammarho.org/home-office](http://alphagammarho.org/home-office).



## SIGMA ALPHA

Do you remember the Rho Mates and Sweethearts of Alpha Gamma Rho? Well times have changed and they have become Sigma Alpha, the sister sorority of Alpha Gamma Rho. The Rho Mate program started in 1982 till it was discontinued in the late 1990s. During this time one of the Rho Mates was chosen to be the sweetheart of Alpha Gamma Rho. After the Rho Mate program ended, the sweetheart program continued by selecting an individual each year to serve as a sweetheart to the fraternity. The national fraternity then suggested that the sweetheart program or similar programs be discontinued. It was at this time the Alpha Gamma Rho sweethearts looked into becoming a nationally sponsored sorority. They then got together with other students and became some of the founding members of the Sigma Alpha chapter at UW-Platteville.

The Sigma Alpha Sorority represents sisters of agriculture. Their mission is Cultivating Professional Women in Agriculture. They are related to the Alpha Gamma Rho brothers because they are our sisters of Agriculture. The National Fraternity of Alpha Gamma Rho has held several events together with them each year including the annual leadership conference.

The University of Wisconsin-Platteville chapter of Sigma Alpha, Beta Delta, started in April 9, 2005 by thirteen charter members. The charter members of Sigma Alpha at UW-Platteville are Vicki Herbst, Kat Gorman, Katelin Haglund, Stephanie Stout, Becky Anding Hurley, Krissy Reynolds Paul, Megan Guenther, Melissa Rae Gerner, Jacqueline Florent, Melissa Endres Hodge, Andrea Stalsberg, Chelsea Scheider and Angie J Novacheck Schiller. Sigma Alpha was first started in 1978 at the Ohio State University by five women who wanted an alternative to the social Greek sorority system. Currently there are over eighty chapters throughout the United States. The Beta Delta chapter at UW-Platteville currently has thirty five members and twenty member candidates (MC). Their current chapter advisor is Dr. Richard Bockhop who is also an honorary member of Alpha Gamma Rho at Beta Gamma, and served an integral part in the house renovation project and the new garage.

Sigma Alpha has finally reached a point in which they have enough alumni to start an official Alumni chapter. Recently Sigma Alpha Beta Delta chapter created an alumni board and a decision was made to hold a joint Founder's Day Banquet this coming spring.



## NOBLE RULER CRESCENT REPORT

Brothers of Alpha Gamma Rho,

As harvest is in full swing and coming to a quick end, I hope everybody and their families are doing well. As the year is coming to a quick close, the brothers of Alpha Gamma Rho are staying committed to our values to keep Beta Gamma a thriving chapter on the UW-Platteville campus.

The past two semesters have been nothing but good news and rewarded efforts. We were once again awarded the Gold Chapter status by nationals again for 2013 with the plaque with all the years of us receiving this award is being proudly displayed in the main living room of the chapter house. Also over the past summer through numerous different efforts, we received two brand new refrigerators for the house. At the end of 2013 spring semester the main fridge in the kitchen had quick working and a few weeks after the cook's fridge quite working as well. Through working with the alumni board, two new commercial grade refrigerators were delivered to the house to be put into use for the fall 2013 semester.

Also on a positive note, the recruitment for this semester has been very strong and many brothers are pitching in to make this new class even stronger. Up to date we have initiated 15 new members. I am very proud of the huge effort that goes into recruiting this many new members and even prouder that I have been able to oversee this huge effort. With these many members, the projected number of men living in the house for next school year is sitting right around 21. This number is up considerably from a past few semesters where we encountered some hardships, but when got our priorities in a row and through lots of hard work and determination our efforts are being rewarded. On top of having a great recruitment this semester, we have been doing considerable time giving back to the community. We have once again partnered with the Platteville Community Arboretum. We have been helping their members cut brush and clean up the walking trails that

run in and around Platteville. They have been very grateful of our services; they said that in just one day of helping them we accomplished what would take four days to complete. Also we have been working closely with the Westview Methodist Church which is the church located across the street from AGR. We have agreed upon helping some of their more elderly members help shovel snow. Last year we agreed to help do the same thing but through miscommunication, the idea fell through but now we are working with their new pastor Shawn Klinkhammer Sr. He is a very upbeat and motivated individual that is making huge strides to promote themselves to the college community. He is more than willing to work with us to bring new and exciting ways for AGR to become more involved with the community and campus. Big plans are on the horizon!

On that note, I will conclude that AgFest was yet another huge success. With over 240 students and guests in attendance, things could not have gone any smoother. Ryan Gosh, the southern Minnesota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin recruiting manager for Land O' Lakes Incorporated, was the guest speaker this year. He spoke about the importance of networking and how crucial job experience is while in college and touched on all the important aspects of why an education is so important. With a great meal thanks to David and Molly Heimerdinger and roasted corn curiosity of Geneva Lakes Produce and the Koster family, AgFest and AGR continued to carry on the tradition of excellence!

As I look ahead to 2014, I am excited to see what our undergraduate members and alumni can accomplish. It will take efforts from both sides, without alumni help and support our success will be limited. With that being said, after having a great year in 2013, I undoubtedly know that we will continue to strive for success in 2014.

Faternally,  
Taylor Kojis, Noble Ruler, #690

## RECRUITMENT

Recruitment is always a main focus for the Beta Gamma Chapter. We find the best brothers that have a passion for agriculture. We also look at their qualities to see what they can not only bring to the Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity but also what they have achieved in their own communities which set them apart from other students. We find these quality recruits by current brother's suggestions, alumni, and also by people standing out in organizations and in class on campus. We at Beta Gamma do not do rush events but do have socials with other sororities to promote ourselves as well as getting to know other contacts on campus. If we are in between socials and a recruit is interested we give that prospect a tour of the house and show him what is expected, what events we do as a Fraternity and answer any questions he might have.

The next step is to set up a Quality Control interview, also known as a Q.C. which is an interview with a board of members appointed to represent the fraternity in the interview along with one of our advisors. They ask questions of character, background, responsibility, and leadership. The Q.C. board decides if they feel the prospective member will be a benefit to the chapter, based upon their interview. Once the Q.C. board decides the prospective member will be an asset to the fraternity, they move to extend a bid to the individual. When the chapter decides if an individual should be extended a bid, the Q.C. interview is discussed with the entire chapter and any members who know the individual can speak in favor or against extending a bid to the individual.

*Continued on page 4*



## Advisor Report

Brothers,

Another exciting academic year is underway at UW-Platteville and there are several things we would like to make you aware of regarding the University, School of Agriculture (SOA) and undergraduate chapter.

UW-Platteville has more students than any time in its 147-year history, according to a recent university enrollment report. The current enrollment is at 8,662 total students, with 7,839 undergraduate and 823 graduate students for the 2013-14 academic year. That figure tops last year's record enrollment of 8,624.

All of these numbers include both on-campus, as well as, online and print based programs.

Several things have happened on campus this fall. A new major in Sustainable and Renewable Energy Systems is now available to students. Homecoming was held the first week of October in which two School of Agriculture Alumni were honored. Ben Brancel, Secretary of Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection and Mike Retallick, Associate Professor in the Department of Agricultural Education and Studies at Iowa State University were selected as Outstanding Alumni. The Fall 2013 Commencement ceremony was held on Sat., December 14.

In the SOA the trend of increasing enrollment continues. Fall 2013 figures show 817 students majoring in the SOA, as compared to 777 students in the fall of 2012. By major these enrollment figures include: Animal Science (327 students), Agribusiness (290), Soil & Crop Science (81), Agricultural Education (50), Reclamation (41), and Ornamental Horticulture (28). The 817 SOA students include 420 female students and 397 male students. The SOA has recently hired several new faculty and staff members. The new hires that started this fall include: Dr. Yari Johnson, Assistant

Professor Reclamation; Dr. Muthu Venkateshwaran, Assistant Professor Soil and Crop Science; Craig Hendrickson, Associate Lecturer Agribusiness; Heidi Bredeson, Associate Lecturer Agribusiness; and Brian Ostby, Assistant Enterprise Manager, Pioneer Farm.

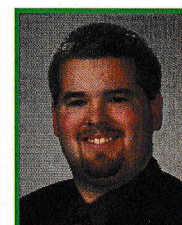
There are three on-going searches at this time in the SOA. There are currently national searches for faculty positions including one in Soil and Crop Science focusing on Agronomy and another in Animal Science focusing on beef management. There is also a new field research project manager position at Pioneer Farm.

Some other events that happened included the National Collegiate Soils contest in which UW-Platteville and the SOA hosted this past spring and the North Central regional conference for the American Association for Agricultural Education this past fall.

The undergraduate officer team has been focusing on recruitment of quality men and managing the financial requirements and responsibilities of the chapter. They held a highly successful and well attended Ag. Fest at the house to kick off the semester. Many members attended the career fair in late-September and have been actively seeking internship and full-time positions. There were several Beta Gamma undergraduates who graduated this fall and spring semester as well.

There has been a lot going on at UW-Platteville and we are excited about the future of the University, SOA and the Beta Gamma Chapter of AGR.

Fraternally,  
Chuck Steiner  
and David Heimerdinger,  
Beta Gamma Advisors



## RECRUITMENT *Continued from page 3*

Once an individual has a bid extended to them, the prospective member has from the following Friday to the Monday meeting at 5 p.m. to accept or decline the bid. Once the bid has been accepted the prospective member goes through the formal initiation process at the next meeting. Once initiated, the new member receives a Big Brother as well as a member number and joins the initiate class for the semester and begins the new member education process. The responsibility of the big brother is to help acclimate the new member to life in the fraternity.

The education process consists of six quizzes taken over six weeks following the new member's initiation. Each quiz consists of history and principles of Alpha Gamma Rho, history of Beta Gamma and UW-Platteville, Greek Mythology and parliamentary procedure.

Also during an initiate's first semester, the new member must complete an interview book, in which the new member interviews every member of the chapter, as well as advisors and alumni. The purpose of the interview book is to get new members to familiarize themselves with members of the chapter, as well as for current members to get to know new members.

In addition to the new member quizzes and interview books, each class of initiates must build a paddle as well as provide a house gift which will be presented to the chapter at the chapter's banquet.

Fraternally,  
Brother Ethan Olson, VNR Recruitment  
Brother Parker Ludeking, VNR Membership



ALPHA GAMMA RHO®



UW-PLATTEVILLE

Beta Gamma Chapter

Dear Brothers,

The end of 2013 is in sight with the holiday season upon us. As I reflect on the year in AGR I see the remains of many positive changes within our organization. We have the best Greek house on campus thanks to the efforts of many brothers, a new garage to match; there is new-born leadership on the undergraduate level that has persevered through challenging times, and an increasingly supportive alumni base. Of the three years of my term on the board, this year has been the best for the organization as a whole. Things are progressing smoothly and I expect it to remain that way going forward.

So where do we go from here? There are a number of projects that are taking off within AGR. We are currently in an excellent position to grow our scholarship contribution via the UWP Foundation. This is a direct carryover from the house fundraising project and we plan to take full advantage of this asset, watch for more details to come. Though our house is still new, it needs work to keep that 'new house smell.' Some components carried over from the old house need attention, while new items with a short life span require care. We plan for these expenses in our annual budget, but we need capable hands when the work needs to be done. So consider helping with or leading a house project.

The undergraduates have worked very hard in the past year to strengthen their recruitment, their financial standing, and most importantly their brotherhood. They are proof that great things can be accomplished with great enthusiasm, even in the face of adversity. Remember that this brotherhood, and enthusiasm, is why all of us look back so fondly on our time in Platteville. I challenge every brother to harness that enthusiasm and focus it back into strengthening Platteville AGR. It is a beautiful cycle! Your contributions can come in many forms; the most important being time. Each time that you reconnect with a fellow brother, get to know an undergraduate or just pay a visit to the house, you are strengthening our group.

Speaking of visiting Platteville, **this year's Founder's Day will be held on April 5<sup>th</sup>**. As I mentioned in the dues letter a few weeks ago, if you missed the record setting attendance (at least in recent memory) at Founder's Day, you also missed Alums who travelled from coast to coast for a tribute to those who lived in the house during the 70's. I hope that this energy carries forward to 2014. I encourage all of you to recruit at least 2 of your fellow brothers to attend.

New this year is a joint Founder's Day banquet with our sister sorority, Sigma Alpha. I was approached by their alumni president, Becky Hurley, earlier in the year about the possibility of joining forces for an alumni banquet while maintaining separate business meetings. They have many eager alumni, and I am confident that they will only improve the Founder's Day experience. Many of the sisters already attend our Founder's Day Banquet as friends, girlfriends and spouses of our brothers. They are the modern day Rhomates and I am eager to introduce them to all of you who have not yet had the opportunity to meet them.

Until then, I wish you and yours a happy holiday season and a great beginning to 2014.

Faternally,

Branden Furseth, President  
The Platteville Alumni Association of Alpha Gamma Rho



## Spring 2013 New Beta Gamma Brothers Class: Gamma Rho

**Brother Jared Gruetzmacher #732**  
Home Town: New London, WI  
Major: Agriculture Business Emphasis  
in Agriculture Engineering Technology

**Brother Bergen Nelson #733**  
Home Town: Naperville, IL  
Major: Agriculture Business

**Brother Christopher Voegeli #734**  
Home Town: Monticello, WI  
Major: Animal Science Emphasis  
in Dairy

**Brother Tyler Fabrizius #735**  
Home Town: Maple Park, IL  
Major: Agriculture Business

**Brother Brock Kasten #736**  
Home Town: Reedsville, WI  
Major: Agriculture Business

**Brother Jake Hoesly #737**  
Home Town: Brodhead, WI  
Major: Animal Science Emphasis  
in Dairy

**Brother Garrett Benzing #738**  
Home Town: Sparta, WI  
Major: Agriculture Business Emphasis  
in Agriculture Engineering Technology

**Brother Lukas Wagner #739**  
Home Town: Cross Plains, WI  
Major: Soil & Crop Science

**Brother Mitchell Otter #740**  
Home Town: Burlington, WI  
Major: Soil & Crop Science

## Spring 2013 Recent Graduates of Beta Gamma

This past May eleven members of the Beta Gamma chapter graduated. Congratulations and best of luck to these eleven guys.

**Aaron Hammer #670**  
Currently Lives: Hillsboro, WI  
Employed at: Hillsboro Equipment as a Salesman

**Matthew Miller #672**  
Currently Lives: Prairie du Sac, WI  
Employed at: Hartung Brothers Inc. as a Field Mechanic

**Tjark Sattler #680**  
Currently Lives: Hector, MN  
Employed at: Buffalo Lake-Hector School  
as an Agriculture Teacher

**Matthew Jackson #682**  
Currently Lives: Richmond, IL  
Employed at: J&J Dill as a Farms and Equipment Manager

**Jordan Alf #685**  
Currently Lives: Lyndon, IL  
Employed at: John Deere as a Product Development Specialist

**Joseph Smolenski #701**  
Currently Lives: Lynn Center, IL  
Employed at: A.C. McCartney as a Technology Specialist

**Jon Biermeier #702**  
Currently Lives: Paradeeville, WI  
Employed at: Landmark as a Agronomy Territory Account  
Manager (ATAM)

**Grant Kohlbauer #718**  
Currently Lives: Dixon, IL  
Employed at: Advanced Crop Care as an Agronomist

**Ben Delp #719**  
Currently Lives: Mount Carroll, IL  
Employed at: Working on the family farm

**Michael Rose #722**  
Currently Lives: Princeton, IL  
Employed at: Pioneer as a Maize Product Development Intern

**James Flood #724**  
Currently Lives: Prairie du Sac, WI  
Employed at: Hartung Brothers Inc. as an applicator and mechanic