

ALPHA GAMMA RHO BETA GAMMA CRESCENT

December 2022

Al Klug “The Music Man”

“The Music Man” the 1957 Broadway Play about a con man named Harold Hill who tries to bring music to a small midwestern town then sell them instruments and band uniforms. Brother Al Klug #95 is no con man but he has been entertaining many Wisconsin (and beyond) communities with German Music through his participation in the Freistadt Alte Kameradan Band.

Brother Klug a member of the Theta Pledge class and was Noble Ruler in 1974 majored in Technical Agriculture. After graduating in 1975 Al worked for the Agri-chemical company FMC for 45 years.

The bands roots go back to 1942 when a 4-H Club near Freistadt, Wisconsin offered young men an opportunity to play in a talent show. Soon after the “Victory Band” was formed. Being in the middle of WWII the families of band members cherished their German Heritage but they wanted everyone to know that Freistadt was filled with patriotic Americans so the band played patriotic songs mixed in with traditional German music. Al’s father Frank Klug and his Sousaphone joined the band in 1944 and he continued to play until 2015. Early on the members of the band had two simple goals:

1. Go to Germany
2. Play for the President of the United States

The “AK” as it is known by its members has achieved those goals as well as recording more than 15 albums. Brother Al got involved with the band in 1983 following in his father’s footsteps. Participation in the “AK” was a family affair for Al in addition to his father, Al’s wife Janet has sung with the “AK” and some of Al’s cousins have also performed. Al’s involvement with music didn’t start in 1983. He started playing the trombone in grade school and played with the “Marching Pioneers” and the UWP Jazz Band while at UW-Platteville.

Soon after joining the “AK” the band went to Germany. Al has performed in Germany and Europe eight times. In 1984 the “AK” entertained President Ronald Reagan while he was on a visit to Milwaukee. Before the Reagan visit each band member had to go through a security screening. Later on, the band performed for President Bill Clinton and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl who was visiting the United States. In addition, the “AK” performed at Wisconsin Governor Tommy Thompson’s Inaugural Ball.

The “AK” performs about 25 times per year at many German celebrations in the Midwest. One of the bands later stops has been at “Oaktobberfest” which is at the Oaks Golf Course owned by Brother John Blaska #5. Al enjoys this performance because it combines his love for music and he gets to see many of his AGR brothers and their families.

Al the “Music Man” Klug has spent the last 40 years bringing smiles to people’s faces in Wisconsin and throughout the World.



*Kelsey Klug and UW Band Director
Mike Leckrone at The Oaks “Oaktobberfest”*



*Gary Klug, Janet Tonn Klug and Al Klug,
UWP Band members*

Advisor Report

By Dr. Ryan Pralle, Beta Gamma Advisor



It looks like we have another Fall where Mother Nature and the Big Box stores are competing for who can get their Christmas decorating done first. With Turkey Day still a week away as we write, they both can slow down. That said, the season of Thanksgiving seems like an appropriate time to reflect on the previous year and put to paper some recent highlights and the changes to come.

Arguably, the crowning achievement of the past six months happened right away during National Convention in July. Coming off our excellent showcase of brotherhood to CEO Rex Martin and the home office at our 50th anniversary founders day, Beta Gamma continued to impress by stealing the show in Milwaukee. Our Chapter was recognized as a Gold Chapter, received Honorable Mention for Academic Excellence, and had three of the 10 AGR Excellence scholarships awarded to Beta Gamma members. There are few things that fill the Advisor Team with pride more than our brother's receiving the recognition that they deserve for all the hard work they did and continue to do.

Speaking of hard work, the officer team and the Chapter Advisors have been making a concerted effort to build officer team resources this semester. Year to year we have historically relied on the passing of physical files in binders and the wisdom of senior members to help ensure a smooth officer transition. Over time these physical copies have become dated, forgotten, and lost. With a new, fresh-faced officer team starting in spring, this fall we have focused on developing position descriptions, a general calendar of events, and standard operating procedures for each position. These records will be electronic and stored on a shared drive that is owned and co-managed by the advisor team. This will tremendously improve our ability to maintain and update Chapter procedures and records. While we have only just begun this long-term effort, the current officer team has made a good start. As a reward for their continued hard work, Dr. Pralle will be the host and caterer of a BBQ feed at the next transition meeting with the outgoing and incoming officer teams.

We would like to remind you that all alumni are welcome to visit the Chapter House. Alumni engagement is a key component to the continuance of our Chapter and long-standing traditions. Also, it is a core part of the influences that we surround these young men and ourselves with

to encourage the ideals of our organization and promote success in the profession of agriculture and allied industries. There is a great group of men living at the house that are always eager to connect and discuss their experiences. Looking to the future, the undergraduates are starting to develop events that can facilitate alumni relations. For example, the Brothers hosted a tailgate before the homecoming football game.

At the top of campus news, the Chancellor search is well underway. At the end of September, a Search and Screen Committee was established that includes representatives from the Board of Regents, faculty, relevant academic staff, and the student leadership. This committee is responsible for interviewing applicants and providing recommendations to the Board of Regents, who will ultimately select the new Chancellor. The committee has recently completed a series of in-person listening sessions at all three campuses, engaging faculty, staff, students, and the community for input in the qualities and priorities a successful applicant should have. An online survey is still open for those interested in giving input at: uwplatt.edu/chancellor-search. Future announcements on the status of the Chancellor search will also be provided at that link.

There are imminent changes in the School of Agriculture's administration too. Dr. Rami Reddy will be completing his 3-year term as Director of the School of Agriculture after the Spring 2023 semester. Nominations for the Director position are currently open; the election of the new Director will take place yet this Fall semester. Our newly elected Director will officially begin their term in July 2023.

Fall was an exciting time for new freshman admissions, with UW – Platteville achieving a 13% increase in admissions campus-wide. However, the graduating class of Spring 2022 represented one of our last relatively large enrollment years. That has led to a continued decrease in the School of Agriculture's total enrollment from 517 students (Fall 2021) to 445 students. Of the current enrollment, 136 students (31%) are male. The Animal, Dairy, and Veterinary Science (ADVS) program has the largest portion of the enrollment (40%) followed by the Ag Business program (29%), Ag Education program (12%), and Soil & Crop Science program (11%). When we look at male enrollment exclusively, Ag Business is the largest (42%) followed by ADVS (21%) and Soil & Crop Science (19%).

It has been an exciting year at Beta Gamma and UW – Platteville. We look forward to a new year at Beta Gamma and are excited to see what the undergraduate members will bring to the table!

Scholarship Funds Update

by Scott Laufenberg #224



The fund balances are as follows:

- Beta Gamma Scholarship Fund \$97,237
- Dennis Valstad Memorial Fund \$39,170

Scholarships in the amount of \$250 each were awarded to Spring Initiates - Chad Achenbach and Jackson Christenson.

For the Fall 2022 Semester the following scholarships will be awarded:

- New Initiate Scholarships – Two for \$500 each
- New Initiate GPA Scholarships – to be determined by academic achievement
- Mike Grulke Engineering Scholarship - \$1,000

The Valstad Scholarship will be awarded in the Spring – amount to be determined by fund earnings.

Our funds are growing and really making a difference for Alpha Gamma Rho-Beta Gamma. A huge debt of gratitude is owed to all that made this happen! We are truly "Making Better Men". Please consider making a gift before the year end. Information on how to give can be found elsewhere in this issue of the Crescent. Also, keep in mind that the Alpha Gamma Rho Foundation also has many ways to give other than cash. Please contact Carol Johnson for options on non-cash gifts at carol@alphagammarho.org or 816-891-9200 x 121

Alpha Gamma Rho National Convention

By Dave Ward #85

Beta Gamma along with Iota at UW-Madison and Alpha Psi at UW-River Falls played host to the Alpha Gamma Rho National Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on July 27th through the 29th.

This was the first time in four years that the convention was held in person due to problems associated with Covid. The three Wisconsin Chapters participated on an Advisory Team which planned, organized and assisted in fundraising to guarantee a meaningful and successful convention. Beta Gamma was represented on the Advisory Team by Scott Laufenberg #224 and David Ward #85.

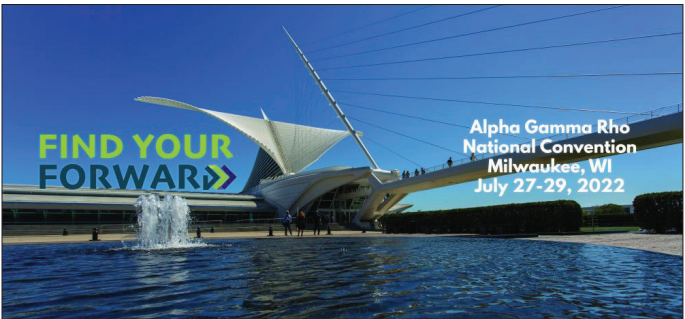
A complete story on the convention is published in the Fall 2022 issue of the Sickles and Sheaf. Here are few highlights for those of us from Beta Gamma: Eight Alumni and two Undergrads attended the convention. Advisor Chuck Steiner #653 and Alumni Board Member Chuck Miller #109 along with Undergrads Jay Long #864 and Austin Beitlich #875 represented Beta Gamma as delegates during the business session.

The Beta Gamma Chapter was recognized as a Gold Chapter by having met six of seven of the criteria required to achieve this award. Only 17 Chapters out of 72 nationwide were given this award. Beta

Gamma also was given an Honorable Mention for Academic Excellence.

The Education Foundation of Alpha Gamma Rho awarded ten \$1,000 scholarships to undergraduate Brothers at the Convention. These scholarships were based on Leadership, Citizenship, Activities and Fraternal Involvement. Three Beta Gamma Brothers were awarded these scholarships. They are Aaron Frey #874, Jay Long #864 and Zach Wynstra #868. Congratulations to these three brothers. The fact that three Beta Gamma Brothers received these scholarships demonstrates the quality of young men we have at 845 West Madison Street.

The 2024 National Convention will be held in Sacramento California.



Pictured L to R: Duane Schaefer, Jay Long, Chuck Miller, Dr. Chuck Steiner, Jack Ellickson, Michael Long, Austin Beitlich, Scott Laufenberg

Message From the President

By Michael Long #727, Alumni Board President



December 2022 – It's evident throughout this issue of the Crescents that we, the Alumni of Beta Gamma have many things to be proud of this year. Our undergraduate brothers continue to impress as they are earning awards and scholarships on the National AGR level. While attending the National AGR conventions I had multiple brothers from other large chapters comment to me about how well Beta Gamma were represented this year.

The undergraduate brothers have been resilient in recruiting this fall. Enrollment numbers are still low within the school of agriculture, yet they have 9 new brothers this fall. As a fraternity we are nothing without our members. I can't thank these brothers enough for the work they are putting in every day.

Today I want to call on our alumni base of over 800 brothers to think about ways to increase our involvement with each other and the undergrads to strengthen our fraternity. There are many ways to give back to the fraternity, financially or with your time.

- Donate to the Beta Gamma or Dennis Valstad Scholarship Funds. These are tax deductible and will help grow our endowments and the amount of scholarships we can give to Brothers at Beta Gamma each year.
- Donate to the Beta Gamma Alumni for housing improvements. Many of you were able to see the recent updates at the Chapter house. The Alumni Board intends to continue investing in our house each year as funds allow. Our next goals are landscaping and bathroom updates.
- Join the Alumni Board or a Committee. We have two positions on the Alumni Board up for elections this spring and multiple openings on committees currently.
- Host a local Alumni event.
- Visit the undergrads in Platteville.
- Write an article for the next Crescent.

Please consider joining us for the 2023 Annual Meeting on April 1, 2023. We will hold our typical business meeting and elections followed by lunch and additional TBD events with the undergraduate brothers.

AGR does Make Better Men

By Larry Raupp #288

In March 2017 after learning of Kansas wildfires on TV, Brother **Joe Keller #381**, BG '92, decided rather impulsively, that he had to respond and help, somehow. Over a couple of weeks, he talked to friends, acquaintances, and Beaver Dam and Prairie du Sac neighbors, inviting them to donate anything that our brethren Kansas farmers might need, having lost everything to fires. Among donated supplies were feed, lumber, fencing, tools, work gloves.

He and a friend loaded their pickup trucks and enclosed trailers, drove to Kansas, and simply started driving down area roads of devastated areas, hoping and offering to help farmer/rancher victims. During this goodwill trip, Keller spent too much time searching for in-need ranchers in an approximately two-county area. After returning to a larger town, and asking around at the Co-op, and local diner, they learned of a few affected farmers and were able to deliver directly to those affected farmsteads. "We really wanted to hand-deliver our goods, to truly see the reward of our efforts and resolve", says Joe. After 4 or 5 days, they unloaded their remaining goods at a recommended staging area where locals promised they be placed with those in need soonest.

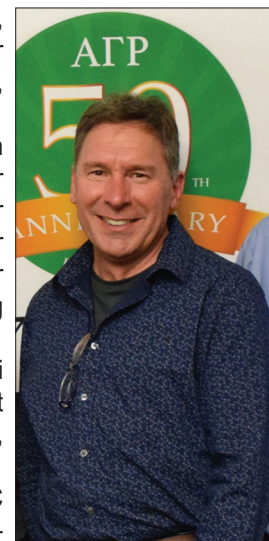
Badger Army responds In March, 2019, sudden snow melt flooded the surrounding lands of Nebraska's Missouri River. Again, Keller "had to help". This time, many trucks and trailers drove towards the flooded Norfolk and West Point ranch and feedlot areas. The bulk of their loads included large and small bales of hay, milk replacer, medicines, fencing supplies, and now, sanitizing supplies.

Word spread quickly about this planned caravan response, and Keller was interviewed by Madison, WI NBC News. See video, <https://www.nbc15.com/content/news/Wisconsin-farmers-traveling-to-Nebraska-to-aid-farmers-affected-by-flooding--507485341.html>

"Thanks for all your efforts. Our family will be donating dog items and a few listed items. I remember seeing you leave Sauk when you went to Kansas and I cried, home grown KS girl here." 2020 Facebook post

"The farmers were grateful for our help. We received so much feed and supplies that we had to ask for additional transport help; folks stepped up." Prairie du Sac's Woller-sheim Winery offered to be a collection site. "The local response here was terrific. When we drove through towns in IA and NE, folks acknowledged us, asked 'where we were from'? It was emotional for all of us." "During so many community disasters, there are lots of folks in cities that quickly respond. There are fewer farmers every day; we have to help each other." Following the Badger Army response, Brother Keller has had inquiries how others might plan similar, emergency supply responses.

Editor's note – special thanks to Brother Larry Raupp for submitting this story. If you have a story that you would like to submit for publishing in the Crescent, please let us know.



Joe Keller #381



House and Grounds Update

by Scott Laufenberg #224

The house updates laid out in 2021 are completed and the house is in great shape as 845 West Madison remains the best Greek Housing on campus. The updates completed are as follows:

- After a lengthy delay the air conditioning units have been installed
- Minor landscaping needs to be completed in spring



New Donations To The Chapter Funds (Since 5/5/2022)

398 Mike Grulke Estate 85 Dave Ward

Do you want to donate to a Chapter Scholarship Fund?

To make a donation by credit card online go to <https://www.alphagammarho.org/donate>. At Donation Type choose Scholarship Funds in the drop-down box then at Investing In choose either Beta Gamma or Dennis Valstad Memorial.

To donate by check, make your check payable to the Educational Foundation of AGR and mail to Jordan Alf, Alumni Treasurer, 5210 N Grand Videre Dr, Janesville WI 53548.

Please specify on the memo line which scholarship fund that you would like to contribute to. Please note scholarship donations are tax deductible.

In Memoriam: Warren Pett #91

By Ken Whitmore #94

Recently I read through the list of deceased Beta Gamma Brothers in the May, 2022 Crescent. When I noticed that Warren Pett's name on the list of deceased brothers it seemed appropriate that his full story be shared with his AGR Brothers. First, let me provide some background. I pledged AGR in the Fall of 1972. Two of my friends, Keith Haldiman and Ron Suda pledged the year before, and they spoke often about their experience at the fraternity. Ron died in 1977, three years after graduation. After a trip to Columbus, Ohio with Dick Jarvis to attend an Alpha Zeta Convention, I decided to pledge, after some strong motivation from Dick. At this time there was what was called "open pledging", so that one could begin whenever was convenient. I went to the House on the first day of classes as a Junior, and I expressed my wish to become a member. Warren Pett and most of the rest of the class, which included Jack Ellickson, joined the fraternity about one month later. If I remember correctly, Keith Haldiman was Warren's "big brother." Warren Pett attended Platteville only his freshman year, returning home thereafter to marry and to take over the family farm.

More recently, in the mid-1990's, I followed a series of articles in the Milwaukee Journal regarding the Pett family transitioning out of dairy farming into a new occupation and lifestyle, which involved a commitment to missionary services in Africa. I didn't think much more about it until March 2004 when a stark headline with an accompanying article presented the rest of the story of Warren Pett's life. A more complete and more poignant description was presented in Christianity Today. The following is quoted from the magazine Christianity Today, July/August 2004:

They Cry in Silence - "Donna and I do not necessarily know the road ahead, but we take comfort in knowing the One who made and is in control of that road." --Missionary Warren Pett

Warren and his Wife, Donna, were missionaries with the Africa Inland Mission (AIM). They were on loan from AIM to Here Is life, a Ugandan Christian ministry that runs the Esther Evangelical School of Technology in Uganda, Africa. The school trains students in carpentry, mechanics, leadership, Bible, evangelism, and other practical skills. Warren, 49,

taught agriculture and Bible courses, while Donna, 48, taught cooking and tailoring.

On March 18, 2004 before leaving for the day, teachers, students, and staff met for devotions led by Warren. Around 9:00 p.m. the Petts left the school to walk home. Soon after, several gunmen wearing military uniforms appeared, demanding the school payroll be handed over to them. Finding they could not enter the school's secure room where the payroll was kept, the men rampaged through the property, setting a vehicle on fire and torching the houses of staff members. Denied the money, the attackers started for the Petts' residence. A courageous student, Isaac Juruga, realized where they were going and attempted to intervene by trying to get to the Petts' home to warn them about the impending danger. He was shot and killed. When the men arrived at the Petts' home, they called the couple out of the house. As Warren and Donna appeared on the porch, they were shot to death.

Their funeral services were conducted at the Elmbrook Church in Brookfield, Wisconsin, where they were members. They had operated a dairy farm in Wisconsin for twenty-two years before going to Africa in 1997. Scott Arbeiter, Elmbrook senior associate pastor, called them "Salt of the earth people. Very authentic. They were vital and lived out what they believed. The news of their lives being taken has sent a shock wave through our church. We are a church in mourning."

Brothers, Warren's life has demonstrated that we all have an opportunity to serve, whether it might be as Secretary of Agriculture (Earl Butz and Clifford Hardin in the 1970's), or delivering meals on wheels in your local community. I would also hope that every one of the brothers, the next time that you are in the House, go to the Chapter Room and take a look at the composite photo from 1972-1973 and remember the story of Warren's life and say, "Thank you, Warren, Rest in Peace."

Editor's note – special thanks to Brother Whitmore for submitting this story. If you have a story that you would like to submit for publishing in the Crescent, please let us know.

Beta Gamma Standing Committees

House and Grounds

- Scott Laufenberg - Chair
- Chuck Miller
- VNR Operations- Jay Long
- Open Position - Frank Raupp

Scholarship

- Scott Laufenberg - Chair
- Michael Long
- Ron Goplin
- Ken Von Rueden
- Noble Ruler- Chad Achenbach
- VNR Scholarship- Reece Franke
- VNR Recruitment- Ryan Parchert
- Chapter Advisor- Dr. Ryan Pralle

Crescent Publication

- Chuck Miller - Chair
- VNR-Alumni Relations – Luke Trustem
- Chapter Advisor - Dr. Ryan Pralle
- Layout Editor - Ashley Yager

Activities

- Open Positions
- VNR Activities - Brayden Peter

If you would like to join a committee or if you have input for any of these activities, please contact Michael Long or the committee chair.

Thank you for your support!

The following brothers paid alumni dues in 2021 and 2022.

| | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 4 Michael & Laurie Krutza | 127 John Hulbert | 282 John & Barb Scott | 623 Branden Furseth |
| 7 James Timm | 133 Kenrick Smith | 283 Gary Smith | 629 Michell Dehn |
| 8 Ronald Goplin | 134 Gary Klug | 284 Robert Klahn | 653 Charles Steiner |
| 10 Mark Highland | 142 Mark Yanke | 285 Randall Binversie | 659 Ryan Studnicka |
| 19 Jeffrey Key | 144 Daniel Wetherell | 287 Bruce McNaughton | 667 Nicholas VanDerLeest |
| 27 Richard Jarvis | 149 Dale Pertzborn | 288 Larry Raupp | 685 Jordan Alf |
| 31 Duane Sanner | 150 Larry Jerrett | 296 Lyle Poch | 690 Taylor Kojis |
| 34 James Lang | 153 Earl Heimerdinger | 304 Kevin Klubertanz | 712 Ethan Olson |
| 35 Ronald Pribnow | 154 Michael & Lynn Martz | 306 Taylor Weisensel | 723 Michael Hoffmann |
| 37 Steven Bowdish | 155 John Wegmann | 315 Gregory Rickert | 727 Michael Long |
| 38 Cyril Deitelhoff | 164 David Bohnhoff | 321 Paul Glaeser | 729 Jacob Leum |
| 40 Mark Wienkes | 170 Daniel Helgeson | 333 Ty & Nancy Powell | 738 Garrett Benzing |
| 46 Michael Miller | 175 Michael Fisher | 336 John Oncken | 743 Kye Witek |
| 48 Jeffrey Blaska | 176 Daniel McGowan | 343 Richard Grulke | 754 Alexander Noble |
| 57 Kenneth Von Rueden | 177 Robert Pauli | 353 Kurt Breunig | 762 Dakota James |
| 58 Donald Von Rueden | 178 Wayne Gerlach | 363 Larry Chipman | 777 Ryan Edquist |
| 61 Richard Rickelman | 181 George Kilbride | 370 Duane Schaefer | 781 Jeff Steuttgen |
| 65 John Dorshorst | 184 Gary Herzberg | 374 Francis Raupp | 784 Kevin Hughes |
| 71 Stephen Mergen | 188 Rick Kuhle | 398 Michael Grulke | 786 Dakota Smith |
| 77 Gregory Nelson | 200 Stanley Jones | 411 Bradley Herbrand | 788 Jacob Stukenberg |
| 78 Scott Weisinger | 202 Kenneth Janes | 418 Jerry Pegelow | 791 Rodger Williams |
| 80 Dale Fitzsimons | 207 Kerry & Barb Henning | 433 Reid Johnson | 792 Justin Nehls |
| 81 David Houston | 210 John Towns | 441 Tony Seebecker | 794 Lukas Wymer |
| 85 Dave Ward | 211 Robert Janes | 447 Robert J Hannes | 809 Taylor Chwala |
| 90 Jack Ellickson | 215 Terry McMahon | 481 Luke Gierach | 810 Chase Grieser |
| 96 Daniel & Rose Dreis | 221 Paul Wegmann | 483 Gregg & Katie Wolf | 814 Dylan McGowan |
| 101 Gary Hansen | 223 Thomas Hamm | 484 Jeff Bode | 816 Jason Bell |
| 105 Lee Jerrett | 224 Scott Laufenberg | 489 Edward Grommes | 820 Seth Bartelt |
| 106 Daniel Adams | 231 Kenneth Gibson | 496 Calvin Deetz | 821 Vinny Reiter |
| 108 James Smith | 249 Gregg Raupp | 499 Randall Clark | 824 Sam Peetz |
| 109 Charles Miller | 254 Vernon & Deb Pierce | 526 Preston Vincent | COL Dan Nankee |
| 114 Frank Friar | 263 Stuart Stangler | 539 Bryan Tallyn | |
| 116 Mark Mueller | 266 Jeffry Laufenberg | 552 Matthew Lee | |
| 118 Dennis Schmidt | 272 Michael Kirschbaum | 568 Tim Pierce | |
| 120 Patrick Kelly | 279 Steven & Tracy Massey | 609 Evan Meyer | |
| 121 Raymond Morse | 280 Kevin & Denise McArtor | 611 Samuel Clements | |

Notice of 2023 Alumni Dues

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

I would like my donation applied toward:

☐ 2023 Alumni Dues \$40.00

☐ Other Donation \$ _____

To pay by check: Make your check payable to Platteville AGR Alumni and mail to:
Jordan Alf, Treasurer, 5210 N Grand Videre Dr, Janesville, WI 53548

To pay online: Visit <https://2023-alumni-dues.cheddarup.com/> or scan this QR code.



Remembering Ken Wilcox #29

By Mike Krutza #4



Oct 29, 1943 ----- July 25, 2022

The Dash...I read of a man who stood to speak at the funeral of a friend. He referred to the dates on the tombstone...from the beginning to the end. First is the date of birth and spoke of the following date with tears, but he said what mattered most of all was the dash between those years.

AGR...what might that dash have meant?

... I reached out to six AGR brothers - Ken and Don Von Rueden, Pat Krutza, Ron Goplin, Steve Mergen and Ken Gay. Brothers who loved and admired Ken. A beautiful pattern emerged...each reflecting on Kens military experience, maturity, and each praised his honesty, wit, and wisdom...and calmness...Especially evident was Ken's leadership with the purchase of the first AGR house at 350 W Pine Street and in the construction of the existing house. Imagine a bunch of young Aggies, little money, managing the plumbers, builders, electricians, and various vendors. Our spiritual eulogists offered "what that dash was worth." Steve shared, "Darn he will be missed by anyone who knew him."

His work...Ken began teaching Vo Ag in Columbus in 1972...soon to work for Cenex. Ken's wisdom, kindness, and ability to produce results propelled Ken into the high-end, difficult, renewal work of turnaround

manager. Ken worked in Neillsville, Adams-Friendship and Mauston. Kens heart condition emerged about 25 years ago, eventually leading to a mechanical assist pump (LVAD) for his heart. Gayle, his wife of 45 years, always his loyal care giver; daughter Jane, (Dr Wilcox, head of heart failure section Northwestern Bluhm Cardiovascular Institute in Chicago became one of his team of Drs., and Mark, manager with Abbott, was Kens fishing companion. "For it matters not how much we own, the cars, the house, the cash. What matters is how we live and love and how we spend our dash."

As dear friend...it was December, 1968... Ken invited us to a snowmobile weekend at Portage... a dairy farm, pristine and beautiful...a genuine caring welcome by parents Merlin and Mildred, learning Mildred always formally as Mother, brother Richard always formally Richard, and Kay his twin. They were democrats...in a holy sense of embracing the least, last and lost and caring for other people which was authentic in every way. As AGR's age, its healthy to reflect on their dash. Perhaps Ken's "dash" was a force of kindness, wisdom and service, without arrogance or selfish forethought...Ken was at peace with his work, he was at peace with others, and at peace with God." Darn he will be missed by anyone who knew him"

The Dash. <https://youtu.be/wuA-SLNeEpw> Gods peace and blessings as you live your dash.

Joel "Joe" Jarvis



When 5 pm rolled around many of us at 845 W Madison would sit down in front of the TV to watch "Bonanza" the story of the Cartwright family. Father Ben and his sons Adam, Hos and Little Joe. When Joel Jarvis pledged Alpha Gamma Rho many of the "Bonanza" fans nick named him "Big Joe" those of you who knew Joel know why that nick name fit Joel. Unfortunately, we lost

"Big Joe" this past summer.

Brother Joel Jarvis (92) was a member of the Theta Pledge Class and he graduated from UW-Platteville in 1976 with a degree in Technical Agriculture. After graduation Joel started farming near his hometown Wautoma, Wisconsin. Joel a fourth-generation farmer was a steward of the land.

Whether it was his wife Laurie, his children and Grandchildren, his

family, his AGR brothers or the Wautoma farming community Joel always had some friendly advice or a joke to put people at ease. On the roads leading to Joel's funeral in Mt. Morris the Wautoma farming community paid their respect to Joel in a unique way by parking their trucks, tractors and combines and painted signs on haybales along the road.



UW-Platteville Alpha Gamma Rho - Alumni Board 2022-2023

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815-508-7119, mlong18@gmail.com
2019-2022

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608-449-1459, jordan.alf@outlook.com
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Director - Scott Laufenberg

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608-575-6189, slaufenb@gmail.com
2020-2023

Director - Kevin Klubertanz

1162 Twisted Branch Way, Sun Prairie, WI 53590
920-342-3559, kbklube@gmail.com
2022-2025

Are you interested in running for the Board? Two terms expire in 2023. Please make it known and attend the annual meeting if possible.

James Salesman #42



James E. Salesman, 74, of Moline, passed away on Saturday, November 6, 2021. Jim was born June 1947 in the Burlington, Wisconsin as second child of Elsa Hohrman Cummings and her estranged husband, Lloyd T. Cummings. He never met his biological father whom had abandoned his family before he was born. His mother was forced to auction their fledgling farm attempt near Kenosha and took a milker's job at the famed RavenGlen

Farms near Antioch, IL in order to pay off their debts.

Jim's toddler years were spent with famous Holstein cows as his baby-sitter while mom worked nearby. His earliest verifiable childhood memory was recalling the All-American cow RavenGlen Triune Creator who was last seen when he was two years old. Before then he had already made national headlines as the baby brother pulled from a trailer house fire by his 4-year-old sister, Patsy Cummings.

Jim gained a step-father when his mother wed Lawrence Salesman in March 1949 in Waukegan, IL. The family stayed in that Lake County, IL area through his grade school years. Lawrence and Elsa built their sweat equity as tenant farmers near Antioch, then Libertyville, then Wauconda, and last Grayslake, IL. Lawrence adopted Patsy and Jim in 1954. Jim started milking half the herd when he was just 12 years old. Younger siblings, John and Linda were born before their family moved in 1961 to their own farm purchased west of Monroe, WI. By then most of their Holsteins herd carried their home-bred "Salesman" prefix.

Jim enrolled as a freshman in Monroe Senior High School, and graduated with scholastic honors in 1965. He was active in 4-H and FFA leadership roles and won many honors showing his Holsteins. Jim received his Bachelor's in Science degree in Tech Ag in 1969 from Wisconsin State University, Platteville. During his college days, he helped formed the school's first Dairy Judging team, which won honors at the Chicago International Livestock Expo in 1968. He was a founding member of the first Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity colony, president of their first Alumni Association and runner-up finalist in college Winter Ice Carnival King Contestant as AGR's rep. Jim won Champion all-breeds showman at Wisconsin Junior State Fair and was elected President of Wisconsin State Fair Youth Council, served as first-ever youth rep on the Wisconsin Holstein Association Board of Directors, was elected Sentinel on the State FFA Officer board, and won the National Star Dairy Farmer and American Farmer Degree awards in FFA.

From college, Jim returned to the family farm, hoping to build his life there. After 18 months, he realized his father's pre-college promises would not be kept. Lawrence only wanted grunt labor, was unwilling to improve anything, and was openly jealous of Jim's successes. So, Jim left for a job as four-state fieldman for the national Holstein Dairy Cattle Registry Association.

Jim wed his home church organist and college classmate, Patricia Sandley in January 1971 at Jordan Lutheran Church just south of his home farm. They spent two years living in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, where daughter Lara was born, and from where he traveled Minnesota, Nebraska, South Dakota and North Dakota for HFAA. Upon Jim's promotion to Regional Lead Coordinator for the Southern Wisconsin Holstein Association, the family moved to Jefferson, Wisconsin. He was the HFAA point man at the new World Dairy Expo and clerked the national show ring in Madison, Wisconsin for several seasons. This

was the cattle exhibition he helped start financially with donations and purchases of his own heifers some 6 years earlier.

In 1976 Jim and Sandy divorced and he left HFAA and began a new career in insurance sales in Milwaukee. To cut living expenses, he shared his rental apartment with recently divorced fellow agent Gene Penner. They were still roommate partners until James' death some 45 years later.

They moved from Milwaukee to Moline, Illinois in 1978 to join Chicago Motor Club's local staff where he worked membership and insurance sales. In 1981, Jim began his 20-year career working at Montgomery Elevator Moline accessories factory. In 1992, he opened his own landscape gardening business which brought him great joy and satisfaction to help others appreciate the beauty of nature.

For the full obituary go to raffertyfunerals.com of Moline, IL

Alumni Updates

Tim Haldiman #93, Waterloo, WI - Tim will be working his 33rd season of officiating WIAA basketball this winter and hopefully working is 32nd year of college baseball in the spring. Tim says if there are any brothers that would be interested in officiating any sport, he encourages them to call him (920-728-2585). Haldiman has have worked many high schools state tournament games in both baseball and basketball. He says high school sports are in dire need of new officials and for those young people or parents who have watched their kids go thru the system and are interested in a part time hobby it is a wonderful way to give back to a great cause. In addition, you get paid to exercise both your mind and your body. And you will meet a ton of great people. Occasionally there is an unruly parent, but that is irrelevant. Haldiman is also the radio broadcaster for Beaver Dam football for the last 35 years on Beaver Dam affiliated radios including ESPN Madison.

Jordan Alf #685, Janesville, WI - has taken a position with Case IH, a brand of CNH Industrial, as Field Service Manager. In this role Alf supports Case IH dealership locations within a territory across Wisconsin, Northern Illinois, and Eastern Iowa. Alf provides support from the manufacturer, assisting with technical service issues, warranty concerns, and customer satisfaction.

John Canalle #698, Genoa City, WI - As of July 2020 John is a Certified Crop Advisor and Certified Crop Specialist Conserv FS in Marenngo, ILL. Also, in 2020 John married a fellow UWP graduate and Sigma Alpha member, Charlotte (Luedtke) Canalle.

Michael Long #727, Big Rock, IL - has taken a position with Ever.Ag in Platteville as a Grain Market Advisor and Broker. Ever.Ag provides risk management, insurance, and grain advisory services to clients throughout the U.S. Brother Mike North #443 is an equity owner and principal of Ever.Ag.

Ryan Knuth #774, Brandon, SD - recently completed his Doctor of Philosophy in Animal and Veterinary Science from the University of Wyoming. He previously earned his B.S in Animal Science from UW-Platteville (2017) and M.S. in Animal and Range Sciences from Montana State University (2019). He is excited to begin his career as a Lamb and Wool Instructor with Minnesota West Community & Technical College in Pipestone, MN.

If you have an announcement or update to share please send to Chuck Miller, cmiller4424@gmail.com

State of the Chapter

By Jay Long #864, Noble Ruler



I hope this report finds all of you well and in good health. As we approach the holiday season, I would like to reflect on some achievements and highlights of the Fall 2022 semester here at Beta Gamma. The undergraduates continue to live the promises and values of Alpha Gamma Rho through brotherhood, community service, scholastic achievement, and professionalism.

This summer, two undergraduates and several alumnus brothers had the distinct privilege of attending Alpha Gamma Rho's National Convention in Milwaukee. The three chapters in Wisconsin (Iota, Alpha Psi, and Beta Gamma) acted as the hosts for the 67th National Convention. Jay Long, Noble Ruler of Beta Gamma assisted in the initiation of Craig Culver, CEO of Culver's. The undergraduate chapter received Gold Chapter Status by meeting 6 out of 7 requirements of fraternal excellence. Beta Gamma was one of seventeen recognized for this award. Additionally, Beta Gamma received honorable mention for Academic Excellence. This award is given to the top three chapters that show strong leadership on campus and have established a strong academic program within their chapter. During convention, 3 Beta Gamma brothers were recognized for their fraternal excellence. Zach Wynstra, Aaron Frey, and Jay Long each received \$1,000 scholarships from the AGR Education Foundation. Only 10 AGR Excellence Awards were given. Beta Gamma was represented well at the 67th National Convention.

Every fall, Beta Gamma hosts their annual Ag Fest. At this year's Ag Fest, Beta Gamma had the honor and privilege to host Grand President Greg Nickerson. President Nickerson was elected at the 67th National Convention. Brother Nickerson was the guest speaker of the event and spoke about how Alpha Gamma Rho has influenced his life. Ag Fest is a night where the undergraduates host the School of Agriculture at the chapter house and highlight the various clubs and organizations throughout the School of Agriculture. Some guests that attended were faculty members; Interim Chancellor Dr. Tammy Evetovich, Blake Noland (CEO of Bird Dog Scouting) Corteva Agriscience, Chapter Advisors and 8-10 alumni brothers. At Ag Fest, two undergraduate brothers were selected by their peers to be awarded the New Initiate Scholarship. Brothers Chad Achenbach and Jackson Christenson were selected as this semester's recipients.

Over the course of the fall semester, Beta Gamma initiated 9 men into the fraternity. The Delta Mu initiation class is a class of promising men

that are devoted to upholding the values of Alpha Gamma Rho. With the large spring graduation class of 2022, our numbers are down, but we are working diligently to increase our chapter size. Our chapter numbers are currently 31 brothers. Of those 31 brothers, 16 reside in the chapter house. In addition, Beta Gamma continues to be well represented on student governance committees with brothers holding officer positions on both United Greek Council and Interfraternity Council.

Beta Gamma continues to be the most prominent men's fraternity on the UW-Platteville campus. The Beta Gamma Chapter received certification with distinction from the Fraternity and Sorority Life Office. Criteria for this award is community involvement, scholastic achievement, philanthropy, and campus involvement. Every year, the Noble Ruler fills out the Greek Achievement Report (GAR) to obtain certification.

On behalf of the undergraduate chapter, I am proud to say the state of the chapter is excellent. The executive team has worked hard over the last year to put the chapter in a position to achieve success. As we transition into our officer elections, I am confident that the next executive board will continue to uphold the promises and values of Alpha Gamma Rho. Trust in each other and in return, you will build lifelong relationships and continue the traditions of Alpha Gamma Rho.

To the graduating seniors, I would like to extend my thankfulness and gratitude for your service to our fraternity. You have shown strong leadership and have acted as role models for the younger brothers. With your commitment and dedication, you have helped create the best men's fraternity on our campus. As Noble Rule of the Beta Gamma Chapter of Alpha Gamma Rho, I would like to thank all the alumni brothers who have donated money, service, or time. Without your help, we would not be in the position we are in today. I would also like to thank the Alumni Board of Directors for all their help in create the best possible college experience for our undergraduate brothers.

As I reflect on my year of service, it has been an honor and a privilege to serve as your Noble Ruler. I am confident that the next Noble Rule will continue to be a leader within the chapter and set a pathway for success. I am thankful for opportunities and success the fraternity has created for me. For that, I am forever grateful. I thank you for trusting my leadership and allowing me to guide the undergraduate chapter.

I wish all of you a safe, healthy, and happy holiday season. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us and stop by 845 West Madison Street.

Hire an AGR!

Do you have a job opening at your business or operation?

Are you looking for a quality employee?

If so, please consider posting your opportunity on the AGR Facebook page – Alpha Gamma Rho – Beta Gamma Alumni & Undergraduates

New Member Recruitment

By Wil Roling #873



The Fall recruitment of 2022 has been a huge success. This fall we were able to add nine new members to the fraternity. The ages of the new recruits are all freshman and sophomores which is awesome because they will provide a solid foundation for the next few years. The biggest challenge we

faced during fall recruitment was getting guys to solidify their commitment to joining AGR. To counter this, we invited new recruits over to the house more often and had volleyball nights in the sand volleyball pit. If you know of any new or possible recruits to AGR, please email achenbachc@uwplatt.edu or send a letter to the house about details on how to contact the young man. Thank you to the alumni for your continued support!

Welcome New Initiates

By Zach Wynstra #868



Brayden Peter - Brayden is from Howards Grove, Wisconsin. He is a freshman majoring in Animal Science with a minor in Ag Business. He joined AGR for the brotherhood and the connections that he can make. The recruitment board did an amazing job showing him the many things he can gain by being in AGR. He is very grateful to be a part of such an amazing organization.



Isaac Ward - Isaac is a freshman from Sycamore, IL studying Crop and Soil Science and Agribusiness. He joined AGR for many reasons such as the brotherhood, alumni network, and professional growth.



Ryan Parchert - Ryan is a sophomore from Illinois City, IL. He is majoring in Agriculture Business with a minor in Crop and Soil Science. Ryan is also president of the National Agri-Marketing association. Ryan says his reason for joining Alpha Gamma Rho is that he saw how the fraternity took care of his brother at Iowa State and all the pathways it opened for him. There is so much upside to joining this fraternity and no downside.



Joey Slack - Joey is from Lake Geneva, WI where he is a 5th generation farmer on his family farm. He is a sophomore at UW-Platteville majoring in Animal Science. He joined AGR because he shares the same interests as the other members and because they were very welcoming when he first stepped foot on campus. He loves the connections made not only in school, but in the world of AGR. He knows that AGR will provide him many opportunities while in school and beyond.



Trent Laufenberg - Trent from Melrose, WI. Trent grew up on his family farm raising beef cattle, hogs and sheep. He is a freshman pursuing a degree in Industrial Technology Management. He is joining AGR because of the great sense of community and the experiences that the fraternity has to offer.



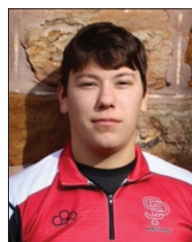
Baylin Crull - Baylin is a freshman from Evansville Wisconsin and is pursuing a degree in Agri Business. He joined Alfa Gamma Rho was because of the brotherhood experience that exists in the fraternity and the opportunity to get involved. While growing up he has participated in sports though his whole life.



Adam Cotter - Adam is from Green Bay, Wisconsin and a freshman this year. He is majoring in Crop and Soil Science with an Agri-Business minor. Adam has an agricultural background from his dad's family farms, which he started managing this year. He joined AGR for the brotherhood bonds during college and the connections he'll have after school.



Mason Raabe - Mason is majoring in Mechanical Engineering. He plans to work in the automotive sector as an engineer and own a ranch someday. Mason is from Waukesha, Wisconsin. He chose to join AGR for the environment and connections it provides. Mason believes that AGR provides a great environment for success not only while in college but also after graduation and will also generate many acquaintances and friendships.



Austin Ryder - Austin is a junior majoring in Dairy Science with a Dairy comprehensive emphasis. He is from Sauk City, Wisconsin where he grew up on the family farm showing dairy cattle and pigs. He enjoys hunting and fishing in his free time as well as hanging out with friends. He joined AGR for the networking it can bring as well as the bonds he has made and will make with brothers.

Do You Know Someone Who Will Be Attending UW-P?

If you do, please let Ryan Parchert, parchertr@uwplatt.edu, 563-260-8291 or Chad Achenbach, achenbachc@uwplatt.edu, 608-412-3325 know.

Graduating Seniors

Zach Wynstra #868



Trevor Verhagen #870 - Trevor is from Combined Locks, WI and majored Manufacturing Technology Management with a minor in Drafting and Product Development. The things that impacted Trevor most are the lifelong friendship and connections that have been made through AGR. Following graduation Trevor will be working at Fluid System Components as a Manufacturing Engineer and running his hat company - 920 Hat Co.



Jacob Crombie #742 - Jake is from Columbus WI and majored in History. His biggest take away from AGR were the friendships made as well as the connections that have helped him throughout his career so far. Jake is the son of brother Pat Crombie #131. Jake is happy to have shared some of the same experiences as his dad while attending UW-Platteville including living in the Chapter house. Jake will be working at Columbus Publishing, LLC post-graduation.



Wil Roling – Wil is an Ag-Business major from Cascade, Iowa. He was a part of the Fall 2022 Delta Kappa class. A few months after joining Alpha Gamma Rho, he took on the position of VNR-Recruitment. In the first semester of recruiting, he was able to bring in a class of seven. In his second semester of recruiting, he was able to bring in a class of 9 members. Wil decided to join AGR after transferring from Kirkwood Community College because the brothers made him feel welcomed and wanted. He says they saw him not only as a recruit, but as a friend. Following graduation Wil intends on pursuing a career in the agriculture field.

BILSA Golf Outing

Each year the UW-Platteville College of Business, Industry, Letters and Science and Agriculture (BILSA) holds a golf outing to raise money for scholarships for students studying within BILSA. This year's outing was held on August 19th at The Oaks golf course in Cottage Grove, Wisconsin. The Oaks is owned by Brother John Blaska #005.

The Beta Gamma Alumni Association was a sponsor of the event and many brothers deposited golf balls in the "environmentally sensitive areas" and Koshkonong Creek which runs through Brother Blaska's course. After golf a Happy Hour allowed those in attendance to relive UW-Platteville experiences.



Tim Haldiman, Jeff Blaska, Interim Chancellor Tammy Evetovich, Duane Rose, Al Johnson



John Elvekrog, Ken Von Rueden, Dave Ward

Do You Have a Story Idea?

If you know of an alum that we should feature in the Crescent please contact Dave Ward palum76@yahoo.com or 920-723-1211.

Officer Team & Contact Info

Noble Ruler – Chad Achenbach, achenbachc@uwplatt.edu

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VNR-Alumni Relations – Luke Trustem, trusteml@uwplatt.edu

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VNR-Planning – Isaac Ward, wardi@uwplatt.edu

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VNR-Public Relations – Adam Cotter, cottera@uwplatt.edu

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Upcoming Events

December

17 Fall Semester Commencement

January

23 Spring Semester Begins

May

12-13 Spring Semester Commencement

April

1 Founders' Day

We Need Your Email Address!

Although we are sending two issues of the Crescent each year to all brothers by postal mail, we also send additional communication by email. These email messages include information on meeting dates, social gathering, and items that might need notification of before the next issue of the Crescent is published.

Please send your email address to Chuck Miller at cmiller4424@gmail.com or 608-628-5799.

Rhomates

If you know a former Sweetheart or Rhomate that would like to receive a digital copy of the Beta Gamma Crescent please send her contact info to Chuck Miller at cmiller4424@gmail.com or 608-628-5799.