

ALPHA GAMMA RHO BETA GAMMA CRESCENT

December 2023

Beta Gamma Colony

By Don Von Rueden #058

Don reached out to a group of original Beta Gamma Colony members to gather their recollection of the beginning of Beta Gamma's most important history. The Brothers that he contacted were Mike Sands, Jeff Key, George Schwab, Stan Smith, Steve Mergen, Wayne Reiche, and Frank Friar. Don was able to get feedback from almost all of them. Several of the brothers alluded to similar information so he attempted to combine their stories. Quite frankly, Don received so much good information that it is not feasible to share it all in this article. His apologies to those that might receive this issue of Crescent that he was not able to contact.

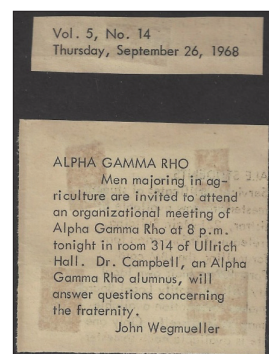
Just as amino acids are the building blocks for protein, people are the building blocks for a strong organization. Anyone that has paid any attention to Alpha Gamma Rho at UW- Platteville for the past 50 years plus knows that we have had good people through the years based on the "Success Story" of Beta Gamma. The pretty humble beginnings began with John Wegmueller and Dr. Bob Campell "Doc" herding a group of mostly "First Generation to Attend College" Aggies with little or no idea what Greek life was about, but still a group with a strong, common interest in agriculture and the initial kernels of brotherhood. Beginning in 1968, Ullrich Hall and Old Main became the center for Colony meetings, socializing, fraternity songs and at least the Alpha pledge class.

To go National, we needed a house. We could not afford the house that was required to go National but, just like in our personal lives, we took baby steps. We almost bought a house kitty corner from the original Student Center, but our option ran out before we could get financing and we did not get it. Frank Friar, also known as Senator Friar, stayed on campus to get his Master's degree and was very instrumental, along with Doc Campbell and Maynard Cole of National AGR, in securing a loan to buy our first home at 350 West Pine Street. Frank remembers walking downtown with Dr. Campbell and having to cosign the note even though his net worth was only the clothes on his back but someone from the fraternity had to sign it. Doc and Pat Campbell also cosigned the note. Doc had Frank carry the check back to campus. He was a bit nervous because it was \$35,000 and that was a lot of money back in the late 60's.

The house had some furniture in it so the decision was made to have a yard sale which Pat Campbell organized. Enough money was made to buy a used TV and 12 beds at a local furniture store. When the beds were put in the house, it took up all the space, so the decision was made to triple deck them. Steve Mergen indicated that Jim Timm (better known as Rabbit) crawled up to the top bunk faster than a squirrel could! The beds were very wobbly so 2x4's were purchased to stabilize them! Since it was student housing, it had to be inspected by the University and the inspection failed because there were not enough showers and stools. With the expertise of Mike Myers and Steve Windett, they were able to put two showers in the basement and one upstairs.

Mike Sands did a great job of describing the culmination of all activity in 1968 and 1969. That pride of ownership and responsibility unleashed a flurry of remodeling activity – for the most part would be characterized as "sweat

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The Beginning

As printed in the student newsletter, The Orange and Blue, notice of the first meeting to organize the AGR Colony at Wisconsin State University-Platteville.



1970 Composite – The first Composite of Beta Gamma Colony including many Founders and members of the Alpha and Beta pledge classes.

Advisor Report

By Dr. Chuck Steiner, Beta Gamma Advisor



As another semester and year come to close, we are grateful for the opportunities provided at UW-Platteville and as Beta Gamma advisors. As our roles continue to evolve on campus and at home the ability for us to work together has provided flexibility and continuity with changing schedules and demands. We continue to assist the undergraduates as they grow personally and professionally through their involvement in the chapter.

We are appreciative of the alumni board and their continued investment of time in maintaining communication with the undergraduates and advisors. They are forward looking while maintaining traditions and identifying ways to strengthen the fraternity. This includes everything from investments in the house and grounds to our brothers through professional development and scholarships. Thank you to every AGR Beta Gamma brother who has engaged with the undergraduates and supported the chapter in any way. Your contributions of time, talent and/or treasure provide a strong and stable foundation for us to continue building upon.

The Noble Ruler, Chad Achenbach, and his offer team introduced some thoughtfully planned adjustments to our annual Ag. Fest event where we welcome faculty, staff, and students in the School of Agriculture (SOA) back for another academic year. The event was moved from a weekday to a Friday night and included additional fundraising, alumni engagement, and a live band to close out the evening. You can read more about this exciting event in the Crescent article.

The university has faced the challenges of addressing a significant structural deficit brought about by a variety of different factors. This past year focused on an in-depth analysis of revenue and expenses

which included a comprehensive budget review. A budget task force was assembled, with representation from across divisions, to address the financial challenges, guided by a budget philosophy focused on building a sustainable, balanced budget. A combination of one-time budget saving strategies and on-going budget reductions have been implemented reducing our fiscal year 2025 structural deficit by over \$9 million. We are also in the midst of a comprehensive strategic planning process to guide us over the next six years.

In the SOA, our competitive teams continued their tradition of success with national placings in the International Quarter-Scale Tractor Student Design Competition, Dairy judging, Soils team and Crops team judging contests. We hosted the annual Dairy Summit in November highlighting the Dairy Innovation Hub's newest research and investment on our campus and the impact it is having on Wisconsin's dairy community. SOA Fall 2023 enrollment figures totaled 447 majors up slightly from Fall 2022. By major these enrollment figures include Animal Science (167 majors), Agribusiness (132), Soil & Crop Science (50), Agricultural Education (42), Dairy Science (22), Ecological Restoration and Resource Management (17), and Environmental Horticulture (17). The 447 SOA majors include 127 male students and 320 female students. You may have noticed a new name for one of our majors. The Reclamation, Environment and Conservation major had an approved name change to Ecological Restoration and Resource Management to better align with the program outcomes.

We will continue to strive To Make Better Men and assist the undergraduates with living the promise and values of Alpha Gamma Rho. Wishing you a Merry Christmas and prosperous new year!

*Fraternally, Chuck Steiner, David Heimerdinger, and Ryan Pralle,
Beta Gamma Advisors*

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Beta Gamma Founders

1 Robert Campbell	Colony - Robert Addison
2 John Wegmueller	Colony - Ken Anderson
3 Michael Sands	Colony - Robert Cavanaugh
19 Jeffrey Key	Colony - Paul Garthwait
22 David Brassfield	Colony - John Tim Helgeson
29 Kenneth Wilcox	Colony - Dennis Karcz
30 George Schwab	Colony - Dan Nankee
41 Darrell Roberts	Colony - DuWayne Ostrem
42 James Salesman	Colony - Mahlon Peterson
49 Thomas Ellefson	Colony - Dennis Rusch
52 Jan Peterson	Colony - Walton Ulness
53 Richard Marotz	Colony - Jon Vickerman
56 Lynden Snetcher	Colony - Dale Weigel
58 Donald Von Rueden	Colony - Burnell Weisensel
59 Stanley Smith	
71 Stephen Mergen	
72 Wayne Reiche	
79 Gene Smith	
82 James Roberts	
87 Thomas Kellom	
88 John Wachholz	
114 Frank Friar	

equity" today. Much of the initial activity was restricted to cleaning, removing wallpaper, and painting. Don does have picture proof of Steve Mergen and Pat Krutza and others with paint brushes in hand.

Mark Mergen, who owned the funeral home next door, came over upon hearing that a fraternity had purchased the house with concerns being next door to a fraternity house during his wakes and funerals. The University approved Frank Friar as the first official House Mother. Frank guaranteed Mr. Mergen that the gentlemen occupying the house would be on good behavior. As a matter of fact, Mr. Mergen looked upon the brothers of AGR with favor as he asked them to help him to unload caskets on occasion. Another point to consider regarding our House Mother - when Stan Smith got married the story going around was that his bride, Barb, would have been the youngest Housemother in AGR history if we had a room for a her!

Once we got to this point, we were a fraternity and the Alpha pledge class meetings took place at the house in the Fall of 1969. Beginning was second semester in January of 1970, 16 men occupied our first house in 3-high bunk beds in two bedrooms upstairs and one downstairs.

Some other names that are not already mentioned in this article from that original group that had heavy impact on putting together the building blocks of the Colony are Ken Wilcox, Jim Salesman, Paul Garthwait, Dick Marotz, Tom Kellom, Gene Smith and others. Please see 1970 Composite picture in this issue with many of the original Colony brothers along with the Alpha pledge class. Don hopes to follow-up with another article that would include our start on campus and lack of respect for a group of farm lads, building the new house and its first Housemother and some early successes!

Chapter House Update

By Kevin Klubertanz #304



The Ag Fest Celebration this past fall was a great success for the actives. For those of us in attendance, we were proud of how things looked. There was a great deal of work done by Frank Raupp #374 (House & Grounds Committeeman and home repair expert) and the actives cleaning up the property, along with taking care of the long list of little things, like caulking and painting.

In addition, there were a few bigger projects including installation of new storage room doors, coordinating seal coating the driveway, and managing the repair of brickwork outside.

Fall 2023 Housing Drive - Continuing improvement is the key to any successful organization. At Beta Gamma we are no different. The Alumni Board would like to continue our progress toward updating the

college home we provide for the undergraduates. While in Platteville for Ag Fest this past September many of the alumni board took an in-depth look around the house and talked with current brothers living in the house. When we stepped into the basement there were multiple comments about the flooring being original and that many gaps have emerged in the vinyl. At this point routine waxing is not keeping up with the wear. With that in mind the alumni board is tackling a basement remodel as our next house renovation. Our fundraising goal for this project is \$25,000 which will provide funds for complete replacement of the floor, bathroom updates, repairs to the fireplace and paint. With a successful fundraising drive, plans are to complete the remodel work over the summer of 2024. Please consider making a donation to help us achieve our goal and continue on our path to maintain the best housing option for our future brothers to come.

Message From the President

By Michael Long #727, Alumni Board President



The holiday season has come upon us quickly. I hope all of our brothers and their families are doing well. Another semester is coming to an end at UW-Platteville and I am very proud of the accomplishments of the brothers. I had the privilege to help the undergrads with the planning for the new revamped Ag Fest. The support from alumni, industry and faculty was truly amazing.

I look forward to more amazing events like this in the future to build our bonds between alumni and undergraduates. If you were not able to attend this year, I highly recommend adding it to your calendar for next year.

Please also consider returning to Platteville on April 6th for Beta Gamma Founders Day and alumni annual meeting. After last year's success we will again be hosting the Annual meeting in Russell Hall (room TBD) at 3pm with a social at Steve's Pizza following at 5pm. The Chapter House will be open all day for brothers to stop by before to look around and meet some of the brothers.

Dairy Processing Plant at UW-Platteville

The Compeer Financial Fund for Rural America pledged \$1 million towards the building of the Dairy Pilot Plant and Training Center at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville Pioneer Farm. It is the largest grant commitment made in its history.

The Dairy Pilot Plant and Training Center will be the first on-farm university dairy processing plant in the state. This will give UW-Platteville a unique platform for education, research and outreach. Additionally, faculty and students will be able to process milk from Pioneer Farm to make any dairy product, but particularly cheese and ice cream. This allows them to perform research for other new diverse products, such as goat milk cheeses or unique bottling concepts. In addition, the plant would be available for local farmers, industry partners, artisan cheese-makers and regional stakeholders to create and test new products.

Students will have opportunities to be involved in applied research on sustainable farm-to-fork ecosystems. These include water management and energy efficiency as well as additional avenues to collaborate with the university's Huff Family Innovation Center. The Dairy Pilot

Plant and Training Center will increase the research capacity and opportunities for nearly all majors at UW-Platteville.

"It is our vision to establish a state-of-the-art dairy processing facility that will not only meet the increasing demand for new dairy products but also create significant learning opportunities," Chancellor Evetovich said. "On behalf of the university, I thank the Compeer Financial Fund for Rural America for the support towards this goal. Their belief in our vision and dedication to enhancing the dairy industry is truly commendable."

"Our mission at Compeer Financial is to champion the hopes and dreams of rural America," said Kim Wedig, Board Director at Compeer Financial. "We can't think of a better way to express our commitment to rural communities than by supporting this pilot plant."

The university and School of Agriculture continue to pursue partners and partnerships in fundraising for the Dairy Pilot Plant and Training Center.

Remembering Those Who Served

By David Ward #85



The last issue of the Crescent featured two brothers who served their country after their education at UW-Platteville. This issue we will feature one brother who served his country and then chose to enroll at UW-Platteville and eventually join Alpha Gamma Rho.

John Dorshorst #65

Brother John Dorshorst looked at his options while he was a senior at Columbus, Wisconsin High School. He and a friend decided to enlist in the Navy before their high school graduation taking advantage of the Navy's "Buddy Program." The "Buddy Program" allowed friends to serve together for their entire time in the service. Unfortunately, John's friend didn't pass his physical.

In 1966 after high school graduation John went to the "Great Lakes" Naval Station near Chicago, Illinois for basic training. From there he did office training at Yeoman's school in Maryland. After Yeoman's school John held the rank of E5 2nd Class Petty Officer.

Brother Dorshorst was stationed at the U.S. Navy NAVFAC 104 Base in Grand Turk a small island in the Caribbean Sea. John was part of the Sound Surveillance System (SOSUS), an underwater listening system designed to track Soviet submarines. While at Grand Turk John volunteered to drive a high-ranking Navy Officer around while he was on an inspection tour. This officer helped John get his next assignment at the Naval Air Station, Cecil Field near Jacksonville Florida. At Cecil they helped Navy Pilots get ready for combat action. In looking back at his time in the Navy John feels very fortunate that he didn't see any combat action. He has the utmost respect for those who did.

John was discharged on April 1, 1970. Back home in Columbus, Wisconsin he went to work at Metal Fab a factory in Beaver Dam. Factory work didn't agree with John and a friend encouraged him to look at college in Platteville. That friend was Brother Dick Guenther #99 who invited John to live with him and other AGR's in a house on Union Street. John credits the AGRs in helping him get back his study habits after being out of school for four years.

Brother Dorshorst was a member of the Delta Pledge class and graduated with a degree in Ag Business with a Tech Ag minor in 1974. John credits the G.I. Bill with the financial support as a big reason he could afford college and graduate with a minimal amount of debt. After graduation John had a long career in Agricultural lending. John and his wife Angie have 4 children and 11 grandchildren and the live in Cobb, Wisconsin. Thank you, Brother John Dorshorst for your service.

Thank you for your support!

We thank the following brothers for having paid alumni dues in 2023.

3 Michael Sands	85 Dave Ward	236 Richard Nelson	653 Charles Steiner
7 James Timm	90 Jack Ellickson	249 Gregg Raupp	665 Abram Houzenga
10 Mark Highland	96 Daniel & Rose Dreis	279 Steven & Tracy Massey	667 Nicholas VanDerLeest
14 James Jarvis	98 Thomas Knauer	296 Lyle Poch	685 Jordan Alf
16 Garry Beals	101 Gary Hansen	304 Kevin Klubertanz	700 Daniel O'Brien
18 Patrick Krutza	108 James Smith	320 Michael Daniels	702 Jon Biermeier
23 Michael Blaska	109 Charles Miller	333 Ty & Nancy Powell	712 Ethan Olson
31 Duane Sanner	120 Patrick Kelly	336 John Oncken	727 Michael Long
32 John Elvekrog	127 John Hulbert	361 Michael Knuth	729 Jacob Leum
34 James Lang	133 Kenrick Smith	363 Larry Chipman	746 Kyle Shepard
35 Ronald Pribnow	134 Gary Klug	365 Douglas Cropp	762 Dakota James
40 Mark Wienkes	135 Kim Viesselmann	374 Francis Raupp	781 Jeff Steuttgen
46 Michael Miller	142 Mark Yanke	395 Doyle & Kim Pokorny	788 Jacob Stukenberg
48 Jeffrey Blaska	154 Michael & Lynn Martz	468 Matt Badtke	792 Justin Nehls
57 Kenneth Von Rueden	176 Daniel McGowan	469 Erik Olson	823 Devon Frederick
58 Donald Von Rueden	181 George Kilbride	483 Gregg & Katie Wolf	827 Zach Tolzman
59 Stanley Smith	188 Rick Kuhle	484 Jeff Bode	838 Collin Bays
65 John Dorshorst	200 Stanley Jones	489 Edward Grommes	COL Dan Nankee
74 Philip Hermesen	211 Robert Janes	496 Calvin Deetz	Robin Patterson
77 Gregory Nelson	224 Scott Laufenberg	499 Randall Clark	
78 Scott Weisinger	231 Kenneth Gibson	621 Greg Bopes	

Donations to the Chapter (Since 6/1/2023)

003 Mike Sands	010 Mark Highland	023 Michael Blaska
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Dave Ward #085 Retires from Teaching at UW-P



When David Ward enrolled at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville in the 1970s, then called Wisconsin State University-Platteville, he had no way of knowing how much attending the university would impact his life. Now, 47 years after graduating from UW-Platteville, Ward has shown a long-time commitment to the university in a number of ways throughout the years, including teaching, creating a scholarship and most recently, adding an estate gift to his plans.

"There are three things, outside family, that made me who I am," said Ward. "Being born and raised on a farm, which taught me hard work; growing up in Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin, a supportive community that especially supports its youth; and majoring in agriculture at UW-Platteville."

It was Ward's high school guidance counselor who urged him to take a campus visit to UW-Platteville in the fall of 1970, when Ward was a senior in high school. With the Pioneer football team doing great that year, Ward described the campus as alive, as his future Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity brother, Jim Jarvis, showed him around. Paired with the fact that he found UW-Madison too big and he had plans to be a college wrestler, Ward chose to attend UW-Platteville. It was here that Ward not only made a number of lifelong friendships but also met his wife.

As Ward reminisced about his time at UW-Platteville, he fondly remembered those who impacted his education. Ward described many of his professors as being four to five years out of graduate school and just getting started. He recalled that while he learned a lot from books, he learned even more from his professors, the people he met and those

he networked with constantly.

Upon graduation, Ward worked alongside his father on their family farm for ten years before taking over upon his father's retirement. He was elected to the school board for a couple of years, when a state representative approached him and asked him to take his place. Ward was elected and served as a representative of the 37th Assembly district for 14 years, continuing to farm for the first several years.

Throughout the years, Ward has continued to maintain many of his UW-Platteville friendships, having get-togethers with anywhere from five to 25 fraternity brothers and friends once to twice a month. Ward said those friendships reinforce the experience he had at UW-Platteville, making it a truly special place for him.

When his father passed away a few years ago, Ward honored his wish for his estate to be put towards a charitable cause and created the David Ward Agriculture Scholarship at UW-Platteville. Ward recently announced that he also plans to leave UW-Platteville and his scholarship in his estate plans.

Although Ward retired five years ago, he has still been making the 96-mile drive to UW-Platteville to teach agricultural policy, which he has done since 2007.

"I've enjoyed teaching and visiting with students, as many as 30 and as little as 11 or 12, freshmen to non-traditional," said Ward. "In talking with students, they've enjoyed that I discuss different policies in agriculture and how I lived them in legislature and have true life experience in what I teach."

This is Ward's last semester teaching. Upon retiring, he is looking forward to spending more time with his wife at their vacation home in Hayward, Wisconsin.

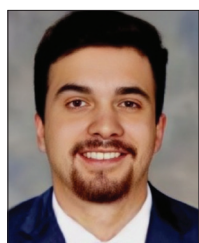
Giving Tree Update

By Scott Laufenberg #224

We would like to recognize Brother **Mike Sands #003** who has reached Chapter Builder award level (\$10,000-15,000). An engraved "Stone" acknowledging Mike's gifts to Alpha Gamma Rho will be placed on the

Giving Tree in the Chapter House. We wish to sincerely thank all donors, large and small, helping AGR 'Make Better Men'.

Graduating Seniors



Jay Long #864 – Jay, originally from Ashton, IL is an Ag Business and Soil & Crop Science major. Following graduation, he will be working for Corteva Agriscience as a Production Agronomist out of their Constatine, Michigan seed corn plant. Jay says that AGR created a college home for him and it through it he formed many lifelong friendships with his fellow brothers. His is thankful that

he joined Alpha Gamma Rho



Ryan Killian #867 – Ryan, from DeForest, WI is Industrial Technology Management major with a Manufacturing Emphasis and minor in Drafting and Production Development. His future plans are to pursue a career in manufacturing processes. Ryan says that AGR provided a college home for him where he was able to make many connections through his AGR brothers and alumni and

make many life-long friends along the way.

Beta Gamma Mentor Program

By Michael Long #727 and Kim Keesey #180

Please consider becoming a mentor in our first mentorship program between Beta Gamma Alumni and our undergraduate brothers. We are in the early stages of developing this program to bridge the gap for our junior and senior undergraduates from being students into early stages of their careers. We have included information about students below that will graduate in Fall '24 Spring '25. These brothers are seeking mentors with relevant industry experience in their fields of study. The Committee is also looking for individuals to help develop and grow this program. If any of these brothers fit the experience that you have or for more information, please reach out to our Mentor Program Chair Kim Keesey at kimkeesey@yahoo.com or (270) 303-3185.

Austin Beitlich #875 - Stoddard WI (near La Crosse WI), Spring '25.

Major: Mechanical Engineering.

Future Goals: to work at John Deere or Trane Technologies.

What he is looking to obtain from the mentorship program: To set himself up for a successful career by asking people in the industry on what steps he should take to achieve his goals.

Cole Krueger #877 - Oshkosh WI, Fall 25.

Mechanical Engineering Major.

He would like to continue interning for Georgia Pacific Consumer Products as a project engineer for the next few summers. They produce paper and tissue products across the country. After graduation, he is not sure if he will stay with this company or explore other options. He is also interested in working for Mercury Marine if the opportunity is there. Overall, he would like a mechanical engineering job where he has the opportunity to work hands-on and with others. From this mentorship program he would like to talk with alums who had a similar career and learn more about their experiences at their company and at college pursuing their degree. He hopes to gain insight into the engineering job field and possibly the paper machine industry as well.

Chad Achenbach #879 - Eastman WI, Spring '25.

Double Major: AG Business and Animal Science.

Future Career Goal: Have a career in the animal agriculture industry and be an advocate for the industry through teaching the next generation. What would he would like to gain: More knowledge about different career opportunities throughout the industry.

Ryan Parchert #889, Illinois City, IL, Fall '24.

Major: Agribusiness with an emphasis in Business Management.

Future Goals: He would like to become a plant manager or sales manager in agronomy.

What he would like out of this program: To make connections and learn of job opportunities.

Max Schneider #897, Kaukauna WI, Spring '25.

Major: Animal Science with a Pre-Vet Emphasis.

Future career goal: Looking to get accepted into vet school work as a large animal or wildlife veterinarian.

What he would like out of this program: To make connections and gain further understanding of his career field.

Alex Ashauer #898 - Kaukauna WI, Spring '25.

Major: Business Management. Future career goal: TBD (Find a job that he enjoys).

What he would like out of this mentorship program: Pointers on what to look for when choosing a company to work for, how to negotiate for things prior to employment such as salary and benefits, and what day-to-day operation would be like.

Jacob Seward #899, Salem, WI, May '25.

Major: Biology w/Health Sciences emphasis,
Minor: Chemistry.

Future career goal: Become a medical doctor.

What he would like out of this mentorship program: Receive guidance and support from a respected member of the community, increase confidence, and have access to more professional development opportunities.

Notice of 2024 Alumni Dues

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

I would like my donation applied toward:

☐ 2024 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://2024-platteville-agr-alumni-dues.cheddarup.com/> or scan this QR code.



Internship Experience



parts and systems on John Deere combines within a lab facility. He was also able to travel across the country to see a variety of crops harvested first-hand. In the field he was able to document failure and propose new ideas for the next generation of combines. Next summer he will be going back to John Deere to expand his knowledge and hopefully get hired following graduation.



His duties included breeding cows and heifers, vaccinating, administering Ovsynch shots, examining and treating sick cows, and facilitating pen moves on calves and heifers. He also entered data on Dairy Comp dairy herd management software and learned how to use the SCR collar system to detect heats (estrous) and sick cows. The internship experience helped Alex improve his overall herd health and management skills. The internship at Stauffer Farms was a great opportunity for a student that is aspiring to work in dairy management during my professional career.

Austin Beitlich #875 – During the summer of 2023 Austin felt fortunate to obtain an internship at John Deere's Global Crop harvesting Product Development Center in Silvis, Illinois. His role was product development engineer. He was tasked with testing

Alex Krueger #883 – During the summer of 2023 Alex had an internship at Stauffer Farms LLC, a 3,400-cow dairy in North Lawrence, New York. Alex worked alongside the herdsman team doing the herd management practices.

SOA Students represented on Homecoming court

Hope Saroka and Brother Jay Long #864 represented the School of Agriculture on this year's Homecoming court. Hope Saroka is a senior double majoring in Soil and Crop Science and Environmental Horticulture. Jay Long is a senior studying Ag Business and Soil and Crop Science. He is from Ashton, IL. Jay is involved in the Collegiate Crops Judging team, Alpha Gamma Rho, and Ag Ambassadors on campus.



Dairy Judging Team competes at World Dairy Expo



The UW-Platteville Dairy Judging team competed at the World Dairy Expo judging competition on October 1st, 2023 in Madison, Wisconsin. Team members included Lila Sloan, Quincee Johnson, **Mason Kruse #863** and Brother **Luke Trustem #869**.

The team was coached by Cory Weigel. The team placed fifth overall out of a total of nineteen teams competing. They also placed fifth in oral reasons and second overall in the Red and White Holstein breed.

UW-Platteville Alpha Gamma Rho - Alumni Board 2023-2024

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Alumni Updates



Devon Frederick #823 - On September 23, 2023, Devon and Katelyn Gonzalez were married at St. Andrew's Church in Delavan, WI. Devon is employed at Scot Forge in Spring Grove, IL as a process engineer. Katelyn is teaching at Darien (WI) Elementary school.



Brother **Scott Wilson #66** and his company, "Wilson Farm Meats", recently had success at the Wisconsin State Fair. Wilson Meats won 3 first place awards at the Wisconsin State Fair Meat Product Competition. The contest is open to all Wisconsin licensed meat processing facilities. Wilson Farm Meats won first place in the Bone-In Ham, Flavored Snack Sausage and the Special

Cured Meat Product categories. Congratulations Scott!



Kerry and Barb Henning #207 - Henning's Cheese near Kiel was the first of three stops October 26 on the Professional Dairy Producers Dairy Processor Tour. The Henning family operates Henning's Cheese where they use the milk from local farms to make 85,000 pounds of cheese per week. Kerry, a Wisconsin master cheesemaker, and his brother, Kert, are third-generation owners.

For more than a century, Henning's Cheese has made award-winning artisan and specialty cheese from the fresh milk of local, small family farms. Through their steadfast devotion to the dairy farmer, four generations of the Henning family have carved a niche in the industry. Henning's Cheese pays above-market prices for milk. By ensuring a minimum price for farmers, Henning said they have not lost any farms due to economic reasons, demonstrating the company's long-term sustainability. In addition to its manufacturing facility, Henning's Cheese also includes a storefront and museum. The store offers fresh, warm curds and a wide variety of cheese and cheese spreads as well as breaded cheese curds for deep frying. *Story by Dairy Star (used with permission).*

Beta Gamma Standing Committees

House and Grounds

- Kevin Klubertanz - Chair
- VNR-Operations - Trent Laufenburg
- Frank Raupp

Scholarship

- Scott Laufenberg - Chair
- Michael Long
- Ron Goplin
- Ken Von Rueden
- Noble Ruler - Austin Beittlich
- VNR Scholarship - Jacob Seward
- VNR Recruitment - Chad Achenbach
- Chapter Advisor - Dr. Ryan Pralle

Crescent Publication

- Chuck Miller - Chair
- Dave Ward - Regional Correspondent
- VNR-Alumni Relations - Brody Mahon
- Chapter Advisor - Dr. Ryan Pralle
- Layout Editor - Ashley Yager

Activities

- VNR Activities - Zachary Kostka
- Open Positions

Mentor Committee

- Kim Keesey - Chair
- Michael Long
- VNR Membership Development - 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.



Zach Tolzman #827 - Zach married Carley Krull on May 23, 2023. They live in rural Lake Mills.

Would you like 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.

State of the Chapter

By Chad Achenbach #879, Noble Ruler



I hope this report finds all of you well and in good health. It is hard to believe we are wrapping up the fall semester of the 2023-2024 school year. The undergraduates of Beta Gamma have been living the promises and values of Alpha Gamma Rho through brotherhood, community service, scholarship, and professionalism.

Beta Gamma had a great fall semester.

We are continuing to be the most prominent agricultural fraternity on the UW-Platteville campus. I am proud to say that this fall, we initiated 6 quality men into our fraternity. The Delta Xi initiation class is full of promising men who are devoted to upholding the values of Alpha Gamma Rho. Our current chapter numbers include 34 brothers. Of those 34 brothers, 17 live in the chapter house. House numbers will still be relatively low again in the spring; however, with the number of underclassmen brothers, the projected numbers for in-house brothers are looking to significantly increase in the following years.

Homecoming was once again a great success for the brothers this fall. The undergraduate brothers displayed an exceptional level of enthusiasm and dedication, actively participating in various events and proudly representing our fraternity. Their tireless efforts not only showcased the strong bond within our brotherhood but also contributed to the vibrant spirit of the entire campus community. Through their commitment and involvement, our fraternity members demonstrated the values that define our organization, leaving a lasting positive impression during this celebratory week. With the help of Brother Jayson Long representing Beta Gamma on the homecoming court, Alpha Gamma Rho and our sister sorority Sigma Alpha placed third overall among UW-Platteville clubs and organizations.

Beta Gamma continues to be the strongest men's fraternity on the UW-Platteville campus. The Beta Gamma chapter received a nomination for Outstanding Student Organization for outstanding leadership to the UW-Platteville Community. Criteria for this award are community involvement, scholastic achievement, philanthropy, and campus involvement. Every year, the Noble Ruler fills out the Greek Achievement Report (GAR) to obtain certification and to qualify for awards like Outstanding Student Organization. Additionally, the executive team worked extremely hard at filling out applications for the Fraternal Excellence

awards back in May and from this, Beta Gamma was recognized by National AGR as a Green Chapter. To qualify as a Green Chapter, Beta Gamma needed to excel and achieve all the requirements in four of seven categories that help uphold the principles and values of Alpha Gamma Rho. These include academic excellence, lifelong membership development, continued alumni engagement, chapter crescents, recruitment excellence, chapter communication, and living the promise and values.

I take immense pride in the achievements of our current executive team and their impactful leadership, which has elevated our chapter to new standards. Their strategic vision, dedication, and collaborative efforts have set a strong foundation for success. As they pass the torch to the incoming executive team, I have full confidence in their abilities to carry forward the legacy of excellence. With a commitment to the promises and values that uphold our chapter, I am confident that the incoming team will lead with distinction, ensuring continued success and growth for our fraternity.

As Noble Ruler I would like to extend my thanks to all of the alumni brothers who have donated money, service, and time. Your ongoing support has been invaluable, and we're truly grateful for the legacy you've built. Your contributions continue to make a lasting impact, and we're honored to follow in your footsteps. Thank you for making Alpha Gamma Rho the best fraternity experience any brother could ask for! I would also like to thank the Alumni Board of Directors for their strategic guidance.

As I reflect on my time as Noble Ruler of Beta Gamma, I am filled with gratitude for the incredible privilege it has been to lead such a dynamic group of undergraduates. Serving as a leader within our fraternity has not only been a personal milestone but a journey of growth, collaboration, and shared successes. Guiding this remarkable group has been an honor, and witnessing the dedication of our members has left a lasting mark on my college experience. The memories and lessons learned during this tenure will forever be cherished, and I am proud to have contributed to the rich legacy of leadership within our beloved fraternity. I am confident that the next Noble Ruler will continue to be a leader within the chapter and set a pathway for success.

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 Ryan Parchert #889



This Fall 2023 recruitment has been Excellent! We were able to initiate 6 new members. Ages of the new members range from freshman to senior. Recruiting the younger guys is great because they will help provide a backbone to the group for years to come. This fall we faced issues of potential members fully committing to joining our brotherhood.

However, we do have a major amount of interest for the next semester! We are still requiring a consistent attendance to all recruitment events by all brothers so we can increase the family feeling felt by potential members. If you know of any potential new recruits, please reach out to me at parchertr@uwplatt.edu or our Noble Ruler at achenbachc@uwplatt.edu. Thank you to the alumni for the continuous support!

Welcome New Initiates

By Ryan Parchert #889



Anthony Robert Greco #902 – Anthony is from Melrose Park, Illinois. He is a History and Political Science Major with an emphasis in Pre-Law. Anthony is a senior graduating this Spring. He is a current member of the Illinois Army National Guard, serving for over two years. Greco says he joined AGR for the great connections and the family like culture that is evident through the immense history and brotherhood of AGR.



Gabe Mentink #907 - Gabe is a freshman from Ootsburg, Wisconsin and is majoring in Dairy Science. Gabe joined AGR because of the reputation the fraternity holds as well as the connections it will allow him to make.



Cameron Pokorny #903 – Cameron is a 20-year-old Junior majoring software engineering from Waupun, Wisconsin and a member of the Delta Xi pledge class. He joined AGR to expand his professional network in the agricultural community and for the opportunity to socialize with likeminded individuals from agriculture backgrounds.



Lane Koning #904 – Lane is a Freshman from Amboy, IL. He is majoring in Agribusiness with a minor in Ag Engineering Tech (AGET). He joined AGR to meet people with the same mindset and to better myself in leadership and professionalism.



Jack Tarnutzer #905 – Jack is from Sauk Prairie, Wisconsin and studying Mechanical Engineering. He is 18-years-old and in his freshman year. Jack joined AGR because of all the connections that the fraternity offers and all of the great people that are a part of AGR.

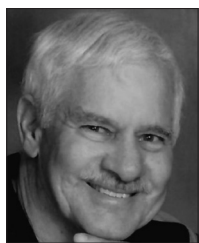


Tom Ruthe #906 - Tom is a 20-year-old Junior from Mosinee, WI. Tom is an Industrial Technology Management major (ITM/MTM) with an AGET minor. Tom joined AGR to make new connections and meet people who share his interest in agriculture.



2024 Officer Team

In Memoriam



James M. Lang #34 – Age 74 of Champaign, IL died on September 23, 2023 at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. Jim was a Charter member of the Beta Gamma chapter of Alpha Gamma Rho. He was born on Jan. 30, 1949 in Waukesha, WI, the son of Edward and Norma Fordham Lang. He married Jacolyn Turnell, and she survives. Also surviving are two brothers, Jeff (Carol) Lang of

Salem, N.C., and Jerry (Nancy) Lang of Akin, S.C.; three nephews; and one niece.



Tyrone "Ty" Larson #449 passed away on Sunday, Oct. 8, 2023. He was born and raised on Lake Waubesa in Madison, Wis. He graduated from Oregon High School in 1991 and from UW-Platteville in 1995 with a B.S. in Reclamation. After graduation, he started as a temp with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and then climbed the ladder, becoming a Soil Conser-

vationist, a District Conservationist, Area Conservationist, and then Assistant State Conservationist, working across Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota. Ty became the State Conservationist of Wisconsin in the summer of 2023. A career of service to conservation and rural America. Ty is survived by his wife, Laura; son, Alex; mother, Kathy Larson; father, Richard Larson; and sister, Amanda Larson.

Lost Brothers

026 Dan Meyer
251 Brian Brown
372 Gary Schultz
490 Tony Leake

612 Seth Richolson
752 Devery VanLandingham
755 Dylan Clarke

If you have contact information for any of our lost brothers please contact Chuck Miller, cmiller4424@gmail.com



Mitchell Dehn #629 – Age 36 of Ripon passed away quietly surrounded by family and friends on Sunday, September 24, 2023 at St. Agnes Hospital in Fond du Lac. Mitchell was born on July 9, 1987 in Beaver Dam to Mark and Lynne (Harms) Dehn. He was a graduate of Beaver Dam High School and UW-Platteville. Mitch was employed as an agronomist in the agricultural industry and

enjoyed working on the family farm. He was a member of Immanuel United Methodist Church in Ripon, the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity, the American Society of Agronomy, Berlin FFA alumni, and the Green Lake County Farm Bureau. Mitch was an avid Wisconsin sports fan. He enjoyed spending time with his friends and family but his children were his greatest joy. Mitch is survived by his two children: Colton and Addison Dehn; the mother of his children Kimberly Dehn; his mother Lynne Dehn of Beaver Dam; and sister Karalyn Massen of Lake Mills.

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.

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

If so, please contact Chad Achenbach at achenbachc@uwplatt.edu, 608-412-3325, or Austin Beitlich at beitlichc@uwplatt.edu, 608-518-1905.

Officer Team & Contact Info

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VNR-Alumni Relations – Brody Mahon, mahonb@uwplatt.edu

VNR-Finance – Mason Raabe, raabem@uwplatt.edu

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2024 Events

January

- 23 Spring Semester Begins
- 23 UW-P Alumni Connection Event, Fort Myers, FL
- 25 UW-P Alumni Connection Event,
The Villages, FL

April

- 6 Founders Day *MARK YOUR CALENDARS!*

May

- 17 Spring Semester Ends

September

- 13 AgFest, AGR Chapter House, 5pm
- 15 Oaktoberfest at The Oaks Golf Course,
10am-8pm

October

- 12 UW-P Homecoming

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.