

BETA GAMMA CHAPTER Crescent



FALL 1998

ALPHA GAMMA RHO
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-PLATTEVILLE

NO. 72

Advisor Report



Last night, I had the pleasure of signing the 60th membership application completed during my brief tenure as advisor. These brothers were initiated over a 5 year period which tells us that we increase our ranks at the rate of 12 men per year. Of course, we have had several excellent recruiting years, and some lean ones. This year, we are on our way to another super season. The first semester has brought forth nine initiates, and several others scheduled for a Quality Control session. The past 12 months have been the most enjoyable time that this advisor has spent in attempting to provide guidance to the men in this fraternity. It has been an extremely wonderful experience working with the current Alumni Executive Board. During the most recent year, we have successfully:

- resided the house and installed new windows throughout the building
- commenced wiring each room for computer and telephone access
- received a rental license after passing inspection based upon City's new Rental Code
- painted all the bedrooms, garage and fire escapes
- installed a brand new Igore
- participated positively in the acquisition of nationally sponsored real liability insurance
- established an annual rental policy fixing the price at \$750 per occupant/semester
- sponsored all ten active officers in their leadership conference attendance
- sponsored active delegates and advisor attendance to the National Convention
- established an active budget that everyone can understand
- published an Alumni Directory
- published both Crescents on time for the second consecutive year
- provided additional scholarship monies for incoming freshmen

This list represents many major accomplishments which have been long overdue. It is truly a credit to your representatives on the Executive Board for pursuing these adventures in such a positive fashion. We look forward to the opportunity for continuing to work together in building an even stronger brotherhood in the year to come.



The house in the progress of getting a new face lift...



The house with new windows and siding. Thanks Alumni!!

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Information on House Improvements
- Donation Update
- AGR Spends Summer in Miami
- Fall 1998 Initiate Class
- Senior Farewells

Alumni Corner

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Dr. Fred Oomens

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608-348-9630

Marriages

Bob and Nicki Cooper
Randy and Brenda Simonsin
Michelle and Tim Woodman
Leslie and Be Fugate

Congratulations

*to the following brothers and their wives
on their new bundles of joy!*

William and Judy Retza
Kevin and Sally Heckert

Mark Your Calendars!

The 1999 Annual Founders Day Banquet has been scheduled for Saturday, March 27. This year the banquet will be held at Governor Dodge Convention Center. Expect further information in the next few months in the mail.

Alumni President Report

by Scott Laufenberg

The past six months have been very busy for the active chapter and the alumni board. Let me share the results team work has produced.

- Foundation for the Future was started to provide alumni dues to operate our growing organization and fund long range projects, a thanks to all contributing brothers past and present.
- Sale of 880 Union Street property was initiated and should be concluded very soon.
- The house was wired to offer better phone and computer service, a thanks to brother Bonhoff and Hertzberg.
- The house was thoroughly cleaned and all the bedrooms were painted by actives living at the house during the summer, a thanks to brothers Schuh, Homan, Gierach, Wallace, and Zuelke.
- The house passed the city of Platteville building inspection, a thanks to brother Oomens for his efforts here.
- Membership directory was published for the first time in four years.
- 20 actives are living in the house, the highest number in recent years. House bills are now set up to match the dorms.
- 9 new brothers have been initiated so far this semester, the largest class in several years.

A question I have been asked by several older alumni is, why do we show a large number of brothers expelled over recent years? My assessment of this is the fact that in the New Brotherhood program brothers were initiated 72 hours after accepting a bid. In the past we had the pledging program to weed out people not committed to AGR. Expelling people is now the only means the active chapter has available to deal with people not committed.

Please direct any questions or concerns in regards to the alumni board to me at 608-846-3765.

Fraternally,
Scott Laufenberg

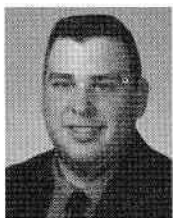
Here Comes the Newest Alumni!



Hello, my name is Paul Zuelke. It sure has been an exciting road for me as brother of Alpha Gamma Rho. Since 1994, I have done what I could when I could with no regrets. I grabbed every opportunity that came about and used that to gain experience, knowledge and to better the Beta Gamma Chapter. I have seen many changes along the way. I feel that I have grown as an individual. I have been VNR-Membership Development and VNR-Alumni Relations for the last two years. I have been all over the United States and met many other brothers. They provided me with some skills that I may not have gotten anywhere else.

The greatest part of this organization is the people. The Brotherhood program allowed myself to educate others as well as be associated with the best three little brothers that anyone could have asked for. Rooming with five different roommates in two and a half years has been very interesting (Leak, Jeff, Pip, Ty and Erik). Homecoming, banquets, night visits to 2nd street and intramurals are just some of the activities that stand out in my mind. I have really enjoyed watching young men come into this organization, grow and become leaders, even when it never looked like they could!

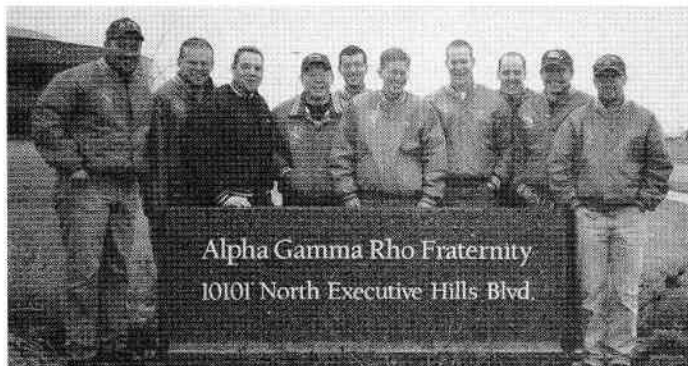
The future does indeed look bright. Currently I am interning at Lancaster High School in Agriculture Education. I am still living in the house, and it's great to come home to relax. I would like to pursue a career in teaching. Alpha Gamma Rho has truly been a home for me. I hope that the brothers that are still here realize that they have great potential and that they can do anything. I can't thank this organization enough for what it has provided for me.



Dear brothers, I would like to take this time to thank you all for the great times that I had as an AGR. As I am graduating in December, Alpha Gamma Rho has made my college years a time in my life that I won't ever forget. This was possible due to the great guys that I have lived with in the house over my two years. We have gone from eating rice four times a week to having a great cook that we all hope will stay for a long time. I would really like to thank my roommates for all of their support over the years. Thanks to Bacon, Deetz, Wolf and Gierach for always being there. I will never forget you guys. After graduation I plan to return to the farm where we are expanding our crop and dairy operation.

Go AGR!

Brother Eric Svenson



Beta Gamma officers at the Home Office following this year's Leadership Conference in Kansas City.



Hello, I am Robert Hannes (447), and I am finally graduating. I have two majors, Environmental Engineering and Reclamation with physical emphasis. I am currently looking for a job so if you have any leads please give me a call at the house. I will always remember the night I was initiated, my 20th birthday. That next weekend my parents told me that I shouldn't join the fraternity, sometimes I wondered if it was such a good idea. Now I know it was.

There is only one place where I will not relocate to — Chicago. After working in Chicago for my summer intern this past summer, I have decided that it is not a life-style which I would enjoy. I saw how every drug is used, sold, what it looks like, and what happens when you don't pay your local dealer. The worst thing that I saw was a man hanging by a rope at Humboldt Park where I was working at the time. I also didn't enjoy having our trucks broken into by nine-year old children.

I would like to find a job in Wisconsin, preferably in the northern half of the state, but Madison would not be that bad either. I have a very broad education, and would enjoy using as much of it as possible early in my career, and later specialize in one area. I would like to spend more time hunting and fishing. My newest hobby is hunting for black bears using hounds. If anyone would ever like to go give me a call, I'll take ya. In the next three years I would also like to settle down and start my own family, hopefully with my current girlfriend Miss Amanda Hauser, who works for the Wisconsin Agribusiness Council in Madison.

I will never forget the house or any of its men who filled the rooms. I have made life-long friends, which have helped me through the tough times and have helped make all the happy memories. I will never forget planning Pork Fest with Wild Bill, or staying up all night to bring the float to town early Saturday morning during Homecoming with JP and Bangor. I have been in school for quite sometime, and during my years as a member I have contributed \$20,000 to the fraternity in dues and rent. It would be greatly appreciated if the Alumni Board would allow myself to get on my feet by not asking for money until 2001. Thanks for the memories, encouragement, and support. I will miss you all.

Green and Gold Club

Robert Campbell

Ken Wilcox

Foundation Club Members

Dave Badula
Randy Binversie
David Bohnhoff*
Vincent Bush
Dan Chipman
Mike Daniels*
Dan Dishno*
John Derhorst
Francis Friar
Thomas Friar
Steve Gay
Wayne Gerlach
Jim Goodman
David Houston*

Don Helgesou
Earl Hermerdinger
Gary Hertzberg*
James Harlbart
Ken Janes
Larry Jarrett
Stan Jones*
Kim Keesey
Ron Keil
Craig Keller
Mack Keller
Pat Kelly*
Jeff Key*
George Kilbride

George Koerner
Jeff Kroes*
James Kruger
John A. Kruger
Mike Krutza
Pat Krutza
Rick Kuhle*
Jeff Laufenberg*
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Brad Lenschow*
Leo Lembitz
Jim Long
Paul Manke
Bruce Makhholm

David Martin
Mike Mortz*
Joe McDonald
Terry McMahan
Dale Mondloch*
Dan McGowan*
John Meyers
Keith Mulder
Mike Myers*
Paul Onan
Matt Otto
Brad Paulson
Dale Pertzborn
Jan Peterson

Charles Rasmussen
Gregg Raupp*
Bill Retza*
Lynden Snetcher
Arron Seim*
Stuart Stangler*
Eric Trapp
Kent Schoeny*
Don Von Ruden
John Wegmann
Paul Wegmann
Mark Wrenkes
Herb Yanke*

* Denotes contribution towards the Green and Gold Club

Contributing Member

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Kurt Breunig
Gene Brooks
Jason Brown
Tom Bull
Steve Chamberlin
Bob Cotter
Robert Cropp
Jim Dederling
Cy Dietelhoff
Brian Donnelly
Don Drewitz
Don Dries
Jack Ellickson
Bill Frank

Ken Gay
Ken Gibson
Neil Gratz
Richard Grulke
Gary Hansen
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Bill Helwig
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John Loitz
Brian Long
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Steve Massey
Dan Matthais
Kevin McArtor
Dennis McDougall
Tom McKittrick

Chuck Miller
Ray Morse
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Mike North*
Dave Otte
Brad Otter
Lyle Poch
Andy Propst
Richard Rickelman
Gary Ruegsegger
James Salesman
Mike Sands
Dave Schaefer
Philip Schleicher
Randall Simonson

John Scott
Paul Steffes
James Timm
John Towns
Kim Viesselman
Bill Von Rueden
John Wegmueller
Bob Weiglein
Ward Weisiner
Jim Wendler
Randy Wileman
Mark Winters
Tim Wolf

* Denotes pledge to Foundation Club Status

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Vincent Bush
Robert Campbell
Larry Chipman
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Robert Cropp
Terry Cushman
Randy Dampman
Mike Daniels
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John Wegmann
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Jim Wendler
John Wendler
Randy Wileman
Steve Wright
Tim Wolf
Herb Yanke

Meet the New Alumni Board Members

My name is Gregg J. Raupp. I joined Alpha Gamma Rho in the fall of 1980 — Omega Pledge class. I graduated with an Agri-business degree in December 1983. Currently, I am an Account Executive for TDS Telecommunications. My job involves selling local and long distance data, internet and voice services to Madison commercial businesses.

I spend my free time doing various activities, such as softball, volleyball, and biking. I also enjoy attending UW sporting events. I have two other "blood brothers," Larry and Frank, that are Alumni from the Beta Gamma Chapter.

Last spring I joined the Alumni Board at the Annual Meeting. I have a couple of intentions that I would like to do during my term. I would like to help build a stronger Beta Gamma tradition, by fueling energy into the Alumni organization. I also see a need to focus more attention on improving the chapter house facilities.



Hello, my name is Tom Bull. As a newly elected member to the Beta Gamma Alumni Board of Directors, I look forward to the many challenges that our organization will face over the next few years. It is my wish to give back to the Fraternity what it gave to me during my undergraduate years. In the past 15 years since my graduation from UWP, I have discovered that education is not always about lectures, taking tests, or writing papers. Through my career as a high school Agriculture instructor, I have learned that the world is everyone's classroom not just the 4 walls of a school. AGR has been a great classroom for me. Looking back at my days at the AGR house, I can honestly say that some of my best learning came from surrounding myself with the great people who belong to AGR. My fellow fraternity brothers were great teachers to me and still are to this day. Serving on the Alumni Board gives me a chance to share all of the things that this wonderful organization has taught me.

For those of you who do not know me, I pledged AGR in the fall of 1981. I graduated with a degree in Ag. Education in May of 1984. Since graduation, I taught high school agriculture at Unity of Mendon High School in Mendon, Illinois for 10 years. The past 5 years I have taught at Pearl City High School in Pearl City, Illinois. This past summer, I completed my Masters Degree in Education from National-Louis University in Evanston, Illinois. I live in Pearl City with my wife Molly (a former Rho-Mate) and our 2 children, Melissa age 7, and Evan age 2.

Check out our Homepage on the Net!
<http://vms.www.uwplatt.edu/~agr/>

or e-mail us at
agr@uwplatt.edu

AGR Service in Miami



AGR Brother Erik Olson served a tour of duty this summer in Miami, Florida serving as Intelligence Analyst with US Southern Command. For his efforts Spc. Olson received the Joint Service Achievement Medal. The citation reads...

Specialist Erik A. Olson, United States Army Reserve, distinguished himself by exceptionally meritorious achievement while serving as installation database analyst, analysis division, joint intelligence center, directorate of intelligence, United States Southern Command, from 8 June 1998 to 27 August 1998. During this period, specialist Olson performed all tasks in an exemplary manner while displaying the highest levels of professionalism, technical knowledge, and understanding of command goals. Specialist Olson was responsible for reviewing and validating intelligence information for over 4,000 installation and facility records in the national-level modernized integrated database covering 32 countries in the command's area of responsibility. He updated over 250 database records using detailed information gleaned from numerous national and theater sources. He continually supported the entire team by completing his assigned tasks, carrying out additional command requirements, and accomplishing other duties as required with minimal supervision and guidance. Specialist Olson maintains the highest personal and professional standards, a positive can-do attitude, and is respected by peers and superiors alike. Through his distinctive accomplishments, Specialist Olson reflected credit upon himself, the United States Army Reserve, and the Department of Defense.

Sports Update...

On Wednesday, October 21st, Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity played Farmhouse Fraternity in the annual football game. The Brothers of Beta Gamma played hard and were victorious in returning the barrel home to its rightful owners. It was previously held by the opposition for the last four years. The final score on this one-sided affair was 34-0. AGR rules!

New Initiate Introductions

In today's agricultural industry we find that leaders are in great demand to take positions within companies and the government to reshape agriculture as we know it. The future holds a great deal for those who are willing to strive to reach the top and be the best that the agricultural community has to offer. My name is **Jared M. Reuter**, son of Norbert (deceased) and Mary Reuter. I commute from my home-town of Darlington, Wisconsin where I am involved with our family farm. Our farm is split into two areas: first we have the dairy where we milk between sixty and seventy cows, then we have a hog unit that will be in full production this spring, which will have two four-hundred foot finishing buildings. When I am not working on the farm, I am working as a carpenter for Fever River Oak Construction Company. Three years ago I completed an internship at Golden Harvest Research outside Belmont, Wisconsin. This internship was through Southwest Wisconsin Technical College in Fennimore, Wisconsin. There I finished a two-year associate degree in Agribusiness/Science Technology. In my second year I decided that I wanted to work as an Agricultural Educator. I am going into my third year at UWP and will complete my program in December 1999. I wished I would have joined the AGR fraternity earlier in my career at Platteville. I joined now because I needed to become more active within the college of agriculture and wanted to make new friends. The togetherness of the members of this fraternity really impressed me and I am grateful for the new friendships that I have made within this fraternity. If I could look twenty years down the road I would hope to be still teaching at a high school, hopefully with a masters degree on my wall. If I had to go off the wall I will run for some kind of political office because if I am going to complain about it like I do, then I might as well try to do something about it.



I am **David Heimerdinger** from Pearl City, Illinois. My parents are Earl and Cindy Heimerdinger. I grew up on a multi-purpose family farm where we raise dairy cattle and swine. I have worked on the farm for many years. My father is an alumni of the Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity, and my mother was a Rho-Mate. I am a freshman majoring in Agriculture Education. I wanted to join AGR because my father was part of the fraternity, and I felt it would be a great opportunity to meet people and make good friends.



My name is **Ty Martin** and I am a freshman at the university of Wisconsin-Platteville where I will be studying in the field of soils and crop science. When I came to UWP I was immediately interested in Alpha Gamma Rho. I had heard about Alpha Gamma Rho from my advisor and several seed dealers I have met through my job at Golden Seed Company in Cordova, Ill. When I first went

to the house I was very impressed with the condition of the house. It was still under construction and still looked better than the rest of the houses on campus. I think that my decision to join Alpha Gamma Rho will benefit me during my school years and beyond. I hope to make life-long friends and to ultimately better myself through my experience with AGR.

I do not just hope to be involved in Alpha Gamma Rho. I would like to pursue my passion for singing and fine arts while in college. I am in two choirs already and have a musical theater minor. I hope to some day become a foreign exchange student and travel to Europe. I also love sports so I will participate in many intramural sports. I believe that companies will not only be looking for people that are experts in their field, but also I believe they will be looking for a diverse background and a person who will get involved.

I grew up in Woodhull, IL. until I moved at the end of my sixth grade year. My father had gotten a job at Golden Seed Co. I spent my high school years at Riverdale High School in Port Byron, IL. At Riverdale I participated in many different organizations. I played football, basketball, and track. Within those sports I held positions of leadership like captain. Sports taught me to compete and to work together with other people. I was also very heavily involved with the fine arts and choral music at my high school. I landed many lead rolls in the musicals and plays and also was very successful in many choral competitions. Student government, pep club, and being involved in community service were also very important in my life. Being involved in all of these activities has taught me to interact with people and also to organize myself.

In my life I have had many accomplishments. I have had good times in my life and I have also had many hardships. Through it all I have had my parents. They have been the forces behind my life; everything I have I owe to them. I believe that family is something that every person needs and deserves and I am thankful for mine everyday.

Alpha Gamma Rho is the type of organization that I will be proud to represent. I know that my future with Alpha Gamma Rho will be one of many accomplishments and great memories.

Here is an Opportunity to Get Involved!

If you want to get involved with the fraternity that gave you so much, here is your chance. The Alumni advisory committees have been very successful in its first year. If you have an expertise in an area or have a will to get involved please contact one of the following committee chairs:

Finance Committee
Alumni Relations
Active Chapter
Building and Grounds

Jason Brown
Scott Laufenberg
Rick Blakely
Greg Raupp

Hello, my name is **Peter Morhardt**. I am the oldest son of Keith and Joyce Morhardt. I live on a 100-acre dairy farm just south of Elizabeth, Illinois. This is my Freshman year of college. I am an agricultural education major. One of the reasons I joined Alpha Gamma Rho is so I would quickly and easily acquaint myself with other people who have the same interests as me. Another reason for me to join AGR is that it is a place for me to study and stay when I have extra time from classes.



My name is **Troy Gregory Cooley**. I'm the son of Greg and Merritt Cooley. My home town is Poynette, WI. Poynette is a small town north of Madison about twenty miles. The town of Poynette is about 1900 people. It is your typical Wisconsin small town surrounded by a large farming community.

I live and work on a farm about six miles outside of Poynette. On our farm we raise registered Simmental cattle, Suffolk, Hampshire, and Southdown sheep. We also have two horses that are mom's responsibility. I have shown at multiple shows including Columbia County Fair, NAILE, and World Beef Expo. I have also participated in 4-H and FFA where I held multiple offices, and was the junior leader for our 4-H beef project.

I enjoy spending what little free time I have hunting, fishing, and four-wheeling. I really enjoy duck hunting with my best friend Quince (my four year old black lab). It is a dream of mine to someday hunt caribou in Alaska with my uncle and dad.

I am a freshman at UWP, and I am majoring in animal science with a science emphasis. I joined AGR, because a friend of the family told me that I should look into joining the fraternity. I also came down on the senior weekend that the fraternity put in, and it pursued my interest in the AGR fraternity. The over-all friendliness of the members and the relationships that I have made will make my experience of being an AGR very enjoyable.



Hello, my name is **Michael Liner**. My parents are Timothy and Kathryn Liner of Van Dyne, WI. I grew up on my parents' 60 cow dairy farm in Fond du Lac county. I am presently in my sophomore year of college pursuing a degree in Animal Science. I joined AGR to make my college experience better by providing a situation to meet many new people in agriculture and to make myself a better person.



Hello, my name is **Randall J. Stuedemann**. My parents are Randolph and Joy Stuedemann of Waterford, Wisconsin. I am a freshman majoring in animal science with emphasis on meat science. I worked on a farm for a year. I joined the fraternity because of the camaraderie between the brothers, and similar interests in my field.

Hello! My name is **Timothy Pyzik Jr.** son of Timothy and Victoria Pyzik. I am from Bolingbrook, Illinois. This is my first year here at Platteville. I am pursuing a major in pre-veterinary medicine. I have not had a lot of agriculture experience. I have attended seminars at Pincoln Park Zoo in Chicago. There I have gained some useful knowledge towards my education. I joined AGR because of the no hazing policy. I thought I was going to have to streak around campus or wear women's clothing to get into a fraternity! But in all honesty, it is a cool fraternity where grades come first.

Living on a farm does a great deal for a person. They learn what hard work is, how to have patience, care for animals and how to respect others. Looking for a job in today's world is very hard. If you were a farm kid you'll have an easier time than anyone else because employers know you'll work hard and you'll work until it's done. Farming brings a new side to people, but those people also see the rewards in other areas as well.



Fall Initiate Class of 1998. From left to right: Peter Morhardt, David Heimerdinger, Randy Studeman, Troy Cooley, Ty Martin, Scott Nelson, Mike Liner, Tim Pyzik.

My name is **Scott Nelson**. I was born on a farm 18 years ago, and I love it. My parents, Doug and Sandy, raised me on that farm and taught me more about life than I may ever learn. Our farm is located in Union Grove, WI. We raised cattle and sold grain. We did a lot of work everyday, and every day something new was learned. When my grandfather died in 1994, we decided to leave farming. Now both of my parents work for the state of Wisconsin. My father is director of Agriculture for the WI State Fair and my mother is an accountant at the Racine Correctional Institute.

I am a freshman this year at UWP majoring in Ag-Business. I looked around for activities that I could join to take up a little more of my free time. Some people back home mentioned the Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity. They said it's great to be a part of, so I looked into it. Everyone here at the house is great, anyone will go out of his way to help. There is a special camaraderie between all the guys. That's what really made me interested.



Alpha Gamma Rho

845 W. Madison St.
Platteville, WI 53818

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Dear Brother,

We are always looking to update our Alumni files. We ask you to take a few minutes of your time to fill out the Alumni Profile and mail it to:

VNR of Alumni Relations ■ 845 W. Madison ■ Platteville, WI 53818

Your involvement is appreciated by all of the Brothers at Beta Gamma.

Last Name, First Name _____

Stud Number: _____ Month/Year Grad. _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

Occupation: _____ Occupation Employer: _____

Business address: _____

Family: _____

Major: _____

Initiate Class: _____

Comments: _____
