BETA GAMMA

Crescent

E P

FALL 1999

ALPHA GAMMA RHO UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-PLATTEVILLE

NO. 74

Advisor Report



Homecoming has come and gone. The house remains intact. Another survival exercise complete. This advisor will forever be amazed at the attitudinal adjustment that occurs between May and October within the minds of actives that "graduate."

It is indeed a pleasure to report that the financial status of the active chapter is far superior to what it has ever been since this advisor became involved in the Fall of 1993. House bills are being collected, rent is being paid, national dues are current, computers are being purchased, the cook is paid, the food budget has money left, and begging the alumni for assistance has ceased. This can be attributed to the establishment of a meaningful succession of treasurers. Currently, actives interested in becoming treasurer work with the VNR-Treasurer to learn the system during the preceding year of their anticipated term. This is also the case in the area of VNR-Alumni Relations which has brought about the publication of the Crescent on time for a record 6 mailings.

Believe it or not, but this advisor has finally achieved success in accumulating "handbooks" from each VNR. Special congratulations must be extended to brother Luke Gierach for development of the most comprehensive document submitted. Luke and Steve Weber put together a classic handbook which will serve future treasurers and the chapter well into the next millennium.

The university continues to struggle with the installation of "People Soft." The implications of this continuing struggle affect the chapters access to active grades and scholarship reports. The last report indicated that Beta Gamma held a 2.78 gpa and was ranked 3rd among fraternities.

One special supper this semester provided another opportunity for the actives to impress the new dean, Duane Ford. Dr. Ford and Ms. Michelle Janisz, Greek advisor graciously accepted the chapters invitation to tour the house and witness the pride of this organization that exists its newly remodeled facility. The culinary skills of the cook were certainly appreciated as well.

It is certainly a time of change at this institution. The School of Agriculture has three new faculty this year. Sean Hurley and Rami Reddy replaced John Cottingham and John Ambrosius, and Tom Hunt was brought in to direct the Reclamation program. There are plans for a

new major in Horticulture complete with a multi-million dollar greenhouse for support. The entire SOA faculty is housed in the Tower, and teach their classes in renovated Russell Hall. It is rapidly approaching the time for this advisor to "get out of the way."

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AGR Fraternal Excellence Awards

Beta Gamma has always been encouraged to maintain high standards. Alpha Gamma Rho has designed its Fraternal Excellence Awards to recognize chapters that are successful in the different areas of Fraternity management and meet the requirements of excellence.

Beta Gamma has recently been awarded the GREEN CHAPTER award. This award was based upon our chapters achievements in meeting the requirements in the following categories: Membership Education; Alumni Relations; Chapter Crescents; Activities; and Spirit.

All chapters had an opportunity to be recognized for their excellence. Non-partial alumni groups around the country reviewed the applicants and chose the winners.

Additionally, Beta Gamma was awarded Honorable Mention in the receipt of the ALUMNI CORPORATION award. The criteria included assistance to the chapter with recruitment and other goals, conducting alumni functions with the chapter, having a long term housing plan, a dues program, and assistance in becoming alumni.

Congratulations to: Richard and Terri Grulke for the birth of Emma Jean Grulke on July 22.

Alumni Corner

Board of Directors Alpha Gamma Rho-Beta Gamma Chapter 1999-2000

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Dr. Fred Oomens

1642 Butson Road Platteville, WI 53818 608-348-9630

Lost Alumni...

The following people are listed as missing in the Beta Gamma directory. If you know where they are, please contact the Beta Gamma Chapter. Thank You.

Members

Brian Brown Paul Featherstone Kevin Knuth Bruce McNaughton Joel Mulder James Roberts Chris Sanders John Towns

Rhomates

Kathi Anderson Fran Breyer Jane Browning Dana Erickson Renee Fay Jamie Goforth Marie Keehn Janet Klug Julie Krueger Cheryl Labeots Mary Lenz

Elaine Lepley
Tonia Lindeman
Holly Miller
Paula Moody
Debra Neckvatal
Holly Noll
Nancy Powers
Suzy Schner
Jane Smith
Cindy Thorson
Ann Wills

Planning Continues For Y2K All-Greek Reunion

When: Homecoming 2000, September 29/30 Where: UWP Campus and UWP Greek Houses Who: All members of social fraternities and sororities,

1940 to present

Projected registration fee per person: \$35 Tentative schedule of events:

Friday evening: September 29, 2000

- registration, beginning at 4:00 p.m., south lawn of the Ullsvik Center
- informal social (7:00 p.m. to midnight) under the Big Top, south lawn of the Ullsvik Center: music, cash bar & munchies

Saturday 30, 2000

- registration, beginning at 7:30 a.m., south lawn of the Ullsvik Center
- pancake breakfast, 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. (extra charge)
- 10:00 a.m. parade, alumni hospitality tent
- post-parade: attend college luncheons and/or visit fraternity/sorority houses
- 1:30 p.m., gather at the Big Top to march to the football game
- 2:00 p.m. football game
- post-game All-Greek Celebration in the Ullsvik Center (5:30 p.m., to midnight) with music, cash bar, and hors d'oeuvres buffet

We're developing a web site to keep you updated regarding this Y2K event. Visit it often at http://www.uwplatt.edu/~alumni/. Also, if you have photos for our web picture gallery, send them to the UWP Alumni Office at 408 Karrmann Library, Platteville, WI 53818 or e-mail them to Daus@uwplatt.edu.

Mark your calendar now to be in Platteville on September 29/30, 2000, for Homecoming 2000. Also, contact your "brothers"/"sisters" and urge them to attend with you. No doubt there will be lots of prizes. And, no doubt, one will be for the fraternity/sorority with the greatest percentage of alumni who return!

Beta Gamma 1999 Officer Team

Noble Ruler - Nick Homan
VNR Recruitment - Ed Grommes
VNR Membership Development - Tom Bruss
VNR Alumni Relations - Brian Paul
VNR Finance - Steve Weber
VNR Activities - Jared Reuter
VNR Planning - Andy Shraufnagel
VNR Scholarship - Erik Olson
VNR Operations - Sean Timm

VNR Provisions - Peter Morhardt

Noble Ruler's Report...



Fellow Brothers, I would like to take this time to come to you as the Noble Ruler of Beta Gamma and let you know how things have been going. The chapter house is still thriving strong and is at one of its highest points since I have been a member.

Over all things are doing very well at the active chapter, but there are a few things that I would really like point out in particular. First, the latest renovation of the first floor bathroom by the alumni has been a welcome asset to the chapter house and is much appreciated. Thanks! Moreover through the actives have also been working hard to do their best. The garage, which has always been a gathering place for stuff, has finally been cleaned and organized to the point where it can be used. Even to work on a vehicle!! The financial situation at the house is also positive. We have been able to replace the failed chest freezers with a new chest freezer. Along with this the house has just purchased an up to date and functioning Gateway computer. This has been a much-needed component of our chapter functioning and our scholarship program.

In the area of recruitment, we have initiated four outstanding young men who you can meet throughout the pages of the publication. In our search for quality men we were hoping to be a little further ahead at this point but we are still exploring the regiments of young men and working hard at it. Scholarship seems to be doing well; unfortunately we have been unable to access our grade reports as a chapter because of the new use of year 2000 compliant software on campus. Despite this the problem is being resolved and we should receive our chapter grades soon.

Elsewhere on campus many changes have taken place in the Greek community for the better. We have received a New Greek Life Advisor for the campus. Her name is Michelle Janisz. Along with a new advisor there has also been the institution of an Interfraternity Council (IFC). so far this has proved to be positive move and will soon become the governance body on campus for the Greek fraternities. There are lots of big things happening on campus, including breaking ground for a new student center this coming spring. So if you haven't been back to Platteville for a while or talked to anyone here, check it out!!

Along with many changes on campus we will also be experiencing some major changes here at the chapter house. In a year and a half our advisor, Fred Oomens, will be retiring from UWP. In light of this, the active chapter is currently searing for a faculty member of UWP to come aboard, as an advisor as soon as possible. This is needed so there is plenty of time for him to work with Dr. Oomens and become acquainted with AGR, Beta Gamma.

I have had an enjoyable and productive term as Noble Ruler so far and I am looking forward to finishing strong. I am also looking forward to leaving this house on a positive note and joining the ranks of alumni who have come before me.

Fraternally, Nicholas J. Homan Noble Ruler

New Brothers Of Alpha Gamma Rho

My name is Preston Vincent. I am a junior from Factoryville, Pennsylvania. I plan on majoring in Agribusiness, with a minor in Dairy Science. My parents are R. Ridell Vincent and Mary Edna Vincent. I joined the Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity to strengthen my leadership skills, improve my grades, and make me a better man.

My name is Doug Larsen. I am a freshman at the University of Wisconsin Platteville. I am an animal science major with a meat animal emphasis. I came from the small town of Sauk City. I lived on a small dairy farm for thirteen years, before moving off. I am attending college to meet new people and get a good education.

Hello, my name is Dustin Wire. I come from a small town of 300 called Winslow. Winslow is in Illinois, about one mile south of Wisconsin. I grew up on a dairy and hog farm. I am planning on majoring in Reclamation and Geography. I am also planning on wrestling while I attend the University of Platteville. I joined Alpha Gamma Rho to build friendships and make myself a better person.

Hello, my name is Mike Herschleb. My parents are Ken and Patti Herschleb. My dad was enrolled in Alpha Gamma Rho at UW Madison. I chose the University of Wisconsin Platteville for its size and atmosphere. I am from Deforest, Wisconsin. I think Alpha Gamma Rho will improve my grades and help develop long-lasting friendships. I am majoring in Agribusiness Engineering Technology.



Check out our New & Improved

Homepage on the Net!

http://vms.www.uwplatt.edu/~agr/

or e-mail us at
agr@uwplatt.edu

Y NOT IN Y2K

Millennium Madness! Out of the Box. Coloring outside the lines, Can't be done!,. These could be some of the phrases, terms that some Beta Gamma brothers might be saying or thinking after reading this article.

Beta Gamma's Annual Founder's Day celebration is scheduled for April 1, 2000. The Founder's Day format has been changed from the traditional banquet to an open house setting. The paradigm shift has occurred as the feeling of the Alumni Board, is the get-together, can hardly get any less successful than the last few years. Hence, Founder's Day 2000 will be brothers only with the focus on camaraderie, networking and espirit de corps. Details for the event are still being planned and suggestions are being solicited, requested, and asked for. A tentative schedule is as follows: Saturday afternoon - 2:00-4:00 Open House, followed by the Annual Meeting and then a barbeque style feed. After dinner, there will be some type of organized outing? Maybe, maybe not. Perhaps Sheepshead games will break out, maybe we will stand around and remember 'bigger and better,' check out the scrapbooks, sing a song or two, you get the picture. Any other ideas? We hope to increase the attendance, participation with this "customer friendly" celebration of Alpha Gamma Rho and Beta Gamma. Customer friendly, in that, Brothers may choose to get in/out of Platteville, carpooling along the way or deciding to spend the night in the city of their alma mater. So, Brothers of Beta Gamma, plan to attend Founder's Day 2000 and April 1st is the date and Platteville 845 W. Madison St. is the place.

Chairman Gary L. Herzberg - 608-849-3398 Committee - Scot R. Laufenberg - 608-846-3765 Gregg Raupp - 608-221-9675 Gary T. Klug - 920-863-5584

Say Hello to the New Alumni



Hello fellow alumni. For those of you who don't know me, my name is Nicholas Homan and I was the 482^{nd} member to be initiated into membership at Beta Gamma. I joined the ranks of AGR in the fall semester of 1995 and have enjoyed being a part of the excellence known as Alpha Gamma Rho. In the past

four and a half years I have been involved with AGR in many ways including Recruitment officer 1996, Provisions officer 1998, and I completing my term as Noble Ruler this fall semester. I can honestly say that I have never regretted becoming an AGR and I will always cherish and remember my times as an active member along with the great times I had with those who were with me. I am looking forward to offering my time and leadership in the roles of an alumni member in the future. I am also looking forward to the start of a wonderful life with my wife to be Jennifer Haas. Alpha Gamma Rho has been the best decision, which I have made my entire college career and I will miss the times of being an active. But time has passed and I hope I have had a positive influence on AGR. I leave college knowing that AGR has prepared me for a successful future and I hope I can give back to AGR and have a positive influence as an alumni member.



Hello, I am Edward Grommes a brother about to enter the job world. I have to say that I have lived every minute of AGR to the fullest. I joined in the fall of 1995, and moved right into the house the following spring semester. I could never imagined what I was about to experience living in the same house with Ryan

Rockweiler and Ronnie Rule. Out of 18 guys in my pledge class I would consider 6 of them to be my best friends. Coming from an area of little agriculture, the members of this fraternity helped me come up to speed with the different farming aspects. I was once asked in a job interview what was one of my biggest accomplishments in my lifetime, my reply was "the day I became a member of Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity." I laid low for a while and watched great members take control of the fraternity and take it through another successful year. Then came my turn to take a position; VNR-Recruitment officer. I never thought that it would be hard to bring in new guys, yet most of them don't realize how much this fraternity does for one individual. I am currently interviewing with companies, yet I don't know what field of agriculture that I am going into. Two years ago I decided to go into a partnership with my grandfather to gain the experience and be able to call my self a true farmer. The last two years have been tough with the crop prices, so I guess I can say that I have seen the down side of farming, yet I find myself wanting to continue. Then I joined the United States Army Reserve in 1996 to learn something outside of agriculture. I became a combat medic. I spent 2 weeks last summer in Guatemala with an Army Engineering Company watching over the soldiers and rendering care to the Guatemalan civilians. I would like to say walking away from college that I did a lot of things that I will remember and will help me in the future.

Brother Ed Grommes



Hello Brothers! My name is Erik Olson and I will be leaving the hallowed halls of UW-P for the last time in December. I would be remiss if I didn't start this article by thanking Dr. Oomens and all my fellow brothers for their support during my years here at AGR. Through the good times and the bad I knew I could always

count on my brothers to lend a helping hand. That is the legacy that surrounds our chapter. I hope in the future that the present members will understand and take advantage of the most precious resource our fraternity can offer, each other. My favorite memories include fishing at Heisner's pond with Mike North and Kevin Heckert, the Mud Hole, joining the Army Reserve with Ed Grommes, the great parties and mornings struggling home from downtown. I will be graduating with a BA in criminal justice, and I hope to use my degree and my military experience to pursue a career in the intelligence field. Thanks again to my brothers, especially Kevin Heckert, Mike North, and Paul Zuelke whom were my roommates during my years at UW-P. I would love to hear from all of my brothers so email me at erik_wisconsin@hotmail.com.

Hello, my name is Jared Reuter and I will finally be out of here in December 1999. I received an Associate Degree in Agribusiness/Science Technology from Southwest Wisconsin Technical College. I then proceeded to attend UWP and will receive a bachelor degree in Ag. Education.

My stay at UWP has been full of experiences and adventures, but none have met up with the challenges that Alpha Gamma Rho has provided for me. I've found new friends and resources that I will always use for the rest of my life. The best part of this experience has been the friendships that I have made. From my big brother, Ty Wingert, to my pledge class; I will never find a group of guys that would stand up for me and be there in a moments notice. This is because I would do the same for them.

My most cherished moments include; beating the rugby team in tug-of-war, working on the Elvis float until late into the night, wrestling with Bob Hannes, and the most memorable time was when I was asked to become a member.

My advise to all the new guys is to take advantage of these experiences that are presented to you. These expriences are what build the young leaders of tomorrow. Be part of this fraternity as an active member and watch as you see yourself grow. Grow as a member, grow as a chapter, and grow as a brother of Alpha Gamma Rho. Thanks for the memories, encouragement, and support. I will miss you all.

Alumni President Report by Scott Laufenberg

I am pleased to report all is well with the alumni chapter and the active chapter also. We concluded the 1998-1999 year in July with a budget surplus. Current account balance reflecting income from the sale of the 880 Union rental property should of 2000. The new rental arrangement allows brothers to live in the house at a cost lower than the dorms with a better food plan. Let me update you on some recent activities.

• 1st floor bathroom was remodeled for a cost of \$12,250 (on budget) and looks great.

 New lighting was installed in the kitchen, making it a brighter place to work.

 New hallway carpet and changes in the ventilation system for the upstairs bath are budgeted but not yet completed.

 All remodeling projects for the 1999-2000 year will be completed using Foundation for the Future fund and operating budget surpluses.

 We intend to apply for the Most Improved Alumni Chapter Award per the recommendation of our national rep. Cody Lane.

I want to thank all the actives living in the house this past summer for doing a fine job maintaining the property. The garage was even cleaned!!, it is my understanding some items found in the back would be old enough to vote. The actives were also helpful in coordinating some of the construction activities.

Fraternally, Scott Laufenberg

House Mother Helen Johnson Passes Away

Dear Brothers of Alpha Gamma Rho,

I have been meaning to send this letter to you since late Spring, but somehow the days have passed without my correspondence. I have written this letter many times, in my heart, but every time it came to putting it on paper I had such difficulty. I hope I can convey this message well. My name is Sherry (Parks) Hoff and I am the Granddaughter of your past House Mother, Helen Johnson. I know she would have wanted me to let your fraternity know that Mom Johnson passed away May 24, 1999.

My Grandmother's life was much like a beautiful novel. Although the final chapter was worn and had pages missing......she always lived to her very best. Even in her final days there was memory and love for her boys in Alpha Gamma Rho.

I truly believe that when one door closes another door opens. Actually, this is something my beloved Grandmother taught me. When she lost my Grandfather a significant door was closed...only to find the opportunity of your Alumni's company opened to her. As a family, we were not much less that shocked when Helen Johnson, Mother and Grandmother, decided to apply for the housemother position at Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity. She has provided room and board for a local high school student teacher at Hillsboro, WI, where she lived. He, being an AGR, had suggested that she look into the position. Before we knew it our Gramma was going off to college with her loving independence forging her forward. Her daughter, my mother, was in full support of her trying this adventure. Her son, well...lets just say the motorcycle ride with one of the original AGR's had him a little skeptical. But when my Grandmother put her mind to something there would be nothing but success written all over it! Within 3 years I also joined her at Platteville and experienced, first hand, the family of Alpha Gamma Rho. The respect and love that was shown to Mom Johnson was beyond compare and I immediately put the family anxiety to rest. Her life now had renewed meaning and a reason to wake up every day. For that I am forever thankful.

I also witnessed how very good Mom Johnson was to the boys she had become so very fond of. There was the Brother that was sent to the dentist for dental work, or a motherly "Time for the music to be turned down (afterall, it was 2 a.m.)," as well as a door that could always be knocked upon for emotional support no matter what the need. Mom Johnson cared very deeply for the Brothers of Alpha Gamma Rho and you were not only Frat Boys, you were Her Boys.

My life was changed for having spent those years with the love and guidance of Mom Johnson. I know hers was changed for the great friendships and kinships she formed with Rho Mates, College Professors, Fraternity Advisors, and the Brothers of Alpha Gamma Rho.

Have a wonderful Homecoming and enjoy all those special memories!

Sherry Parks Hoff

Donation List

Green and Gold Club Robert Campbell Duane Schaefer William Retz Ken Wilcox 1999 Supporting Members Todd Goedeke Duane Sanner Chris Atten Jeff Laufenberg Neal Gratz Dave Schaefer Jeff Baranczyk Scott Laufenberg Micheal Grulke Duane Schaefer Harold Beals John Loitz Rich Grulke Andrew Schleicher David Becker Kevin Long Richard Guenther Phillip Schleicher Randy Benedict Dan Matthais Tony Seebecker Dave Gundlach **Kevin McArtor** Rick Blakely Gary Hansen Aaron Seim Gene Brooks Dan Helgeson Dan McGowan Duane Sherven Jason Brown Robert Meier Kerry Henning Stuart Stangler Lee Jerrett Tom Bull Steve Mergan Dean Strauss Vincent Bush Jeff Mohlman Reid Johnson Larry Voigts Larry Chipman James Moody Craig Keller Ken Von Rueden Robert Cropp Ray Morse Pat Kelly David Welsh Terry Cushman Tim Mueller Ken Klaes Jim Wendler Mike Daniels Greg Nelson Kevin Klubertanz John Wendler Calvin Deetz Mike North Ken Wilcox Gary Klug Dan Dishno Matt Otto Jeff Kroes Randy Wileman John Dorhorst Jerry Pegelow Mark Winters Kurt Krueger Jack Ellickson Lyle Poch Jerry Wright James Kruger Dovle Pokorny John Elvekrog Mike Krutza Paul Zuelke David Fischer Ron Pribnow Eric Kuhls Francis Friar William Retza Foundation Club James Hurlbert Matt Otto Randy Binversie Jim Lang Ken James **Brad Paulson** David Bohnhoff Jeff Laufenberg Larry Jerrett Dale Pertzborn Jason Brown Scott Laufenberg Al Johnson Jan Peterson Vincent Bush Leo Lembitz Stan Jones Charles Rasmussen Robert Campbell Brad Lenschow Kim Keesev Greg Raudd Dan Chipman Bruce Makholm Ron Keil William Retza Mike Daniels Paul Manke Craig Keller Mike Sands Dan Dishno John Marotz Joe Keller Duane Schaefer John Dorhorst David Martin Mark Keller Aaron Seim Micheal Fisher Mike Martz Pat Kelly Kent Shoeny Francis Friar Joe McDonald Jeff Kev Lynden Snetcher Thomas Friar Dan McGowan George Kilbridge Stuart Stangler Steve Gay Terry McHahan Gary Klug Eric Trapp Wayne Gerlach John Mevers George Koerner Don Von Ruden Jim Goodman Dale Mondloch John Wegmann Jeff Kroes Earl Heimerdinger Ray Morse James Kruger Paul Wegmann Dan Helgeson Keith Mulder John Kruger Mark Wienkes Kerry Henning Mike Myers Mike Krutza Ken Wilcox Gary Hertzberg Mike North Pat Krutza Herb Yanke David Houston Paul Onan Beta Gamma Foundation for the Future Pledge Card Phone ____ Address

Send Payments to Alumni Treasurer, Jason Brown, 205 Heather St., Mount Horeb, WI 53572

Foundation for the Future donation (Contributing member and Green & Gold Club)

\$25 1999 Alumni Dues (Supporting member)

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AGR Visits Beta Gamma

Hello brothers. my name is Scott Hessel. I am an active member in Alpha Tau chapter at Western Illinois University. I was lucky enough to receive a six-month internship with a Golden Harvest research station in Platteville, Wisconsin. Fortunately, I had the opportunity to live and participate with the brothers at Beta Gamma chapter. When I moved up to Platteville, I didn't know anyone. However, the brothers at UWP took me in and treated me as if I had been there for years. The men were always friendly, outgoing and I never felt out of place. They included me in everything they did and I appreciate that very much. The time I spent in Platteville was a great experience for me; I got to meet an excellent group of men with interests the same as myself. It gave me a chance to see how another chapter ran and we were able to exchange ideas about how we operated. If anyone ever has the chance to live at another chapter during an internship I recommend it.

Here is a story that helps describe the character of the men at Beta Gamma and Alpha Gamma Rho in general. While I was living at the AGR house in Platteville I had some friends from Western, that happened to be in a different fraternity, come up and visit me. The members of Beta Gamma chapter were just as open to welcoming them as they were to me. Later those same friends told me that the AGR's they had met at Platteville and Western had something in common. They said we were the most professional and friendly bunch of men they had ever met. Furthermore, they said that if they could do it over again they would have rushed Alpha Gamma Rho, because AGR's get more out of college and the fraternity system than just parties and socializing. That meant alot to me and I realized that no matter if we come from Beta Gamma, Alpha Tau, or any of the other outstanding chapters, we are all respected by our peers, professors, and community members. This is a result of the values, discipline, and professionalism that we instill in our members, furthermore, the way we present ourselves to others. This is why I am proud to say I am a member of Alpha Gamma Rho.



Alpha Gamma Rho

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THANK YOU FOR CONTINUING YOUR SUPPORT

This Crescent was made possible by alumni like you. Your tax deductible gift to the Educational Foundation of Alpha Gamma Rho helps support programs like this that benefit your chapter.

I want to help develop tomorrow's leaders today.

Enclosed is my tax deductible gift of: \$100____ \$50___ \$25___ \$15___ Other___

Thank You!

Please make checks payable to Educational Foundation of Alpha Gamma Rho.

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:		
Address:		
	State Zip Code:	
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