



the crops team with Australian farmer, Will Macmith, learning about canola. Brother Theisen is on the far right, in gray shirt.)

Brother Theisen Represents Beta Gamma At International Level

In his past September, Brother Nick Theisen (#744) had the opportunity to represent not only the University of Wisconsin-Platteville, but also the Beta Gamma chapter as a contestant at the Australian Universities Crop Competition in Temora, Australia. Theisen, a junior soil and crop science major from Adams, Wis. was awarded this opportunity after placing individually in the top six place winners at the National Crops competitions at Kansas City, and Chicago in 2014. Brother Theisen, alongside three other students from UW-Platteville's crop judging team, coached by Dr. Roger Higgs, had the opportunity to compete as team with students from Virginia Tech and Oklahoma State. The group had the opportunity to spend a few days in Australia prior to the competition. They used this time to learn about Australian agriculture by touring farms, visiting agricultural research sites, and even a canola milling plant. When asked the biggest difference from American to Australian agriculture brother Theisen stated, "The eye opening difference between the two was how strictly the water resources and irrigation is governed and controlled here, but also being from the Midwest and seeing mostly corn and soybeans back home is a big difference to the endless fields of wheat and canola grown here in Australia." Overall the completion lasted three days and the team competed against teams from all over Australia, in the end placing 3rd as a team. Brother Theisen was happy with the results explaining, "This trip was not so much about winning, it learning about Australian agriculture and meeting the other students who are learning the same thing." Brother Theisen wants to thank his coach Dr. Higgs, UW-Platteville, and the university alumni who helped make this once in a lifetime opportunity possible.

Founder's Day 2016: Alpha Gamma Rho & Sigma Alpha

Founder's Day festivities will be coming in a few short months. The date is set for April 2, 2016. The undergraduates as well as the alumni board are thrilled to be hosting the usual weekend events for the alumni and undergraduates. We will be in Velzy Commons again this 2016 season, remember that the formal invitation brochure will be in the mail soon!

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Alumni President's Report

As 2015 is coming to an end I'm hoping everyone had a plentiful year and you can take some time to enjoy the holiday season with family and friends. Beta Gamma had an eventful year for both the Undergrad chapter and your Alumni Association.

The Beta Gamma Alumni Association is in good shape financially this is due to a number of things:

1. The fundraising drive for the house remodeling project was very successful we have collected over 90% of what was pledged, thank you.
2. Alumni dues collections have kept pace with our budgets, thank you
3. We have set up reasonable budgets and have had the necessary funds available to make minor repairs and to replace worn out equipment.
4. The Undergraduate Chapter has kept the house full and in good repair and most importantly they have paid the rent on time.

At the annual meeting last March the alumni decided to withdraw the remaining \$9,600.00 from the UW-Platteville Foundation account and set up a House Improvement Fund. This has been accomplished and the Ag Structures class has poured a new concrete apron in front of the storage shed and this February the lights and the ceiling in the basement will be replaced.

The Board of Directors met with the Undergrad officer team at the start of the school year and we agreed to raise the rent to the Undergrads to \$59,000 in the 2016-17 school year and \$60,000 in the 2017-18 school year.

The Undergrads will be reporting on their activities but I need to mention a couple of things. They planned a very successful AG Fest this fall with over 300 people attending. Your alumni association sponsored the speaker. Earlier this fall a chapter consultant from the national Alpha Gamma Rho office visited Beta Gamma. He stayed at the house for a few days to get an idea of how things are going at 845 W. Madison. I had the opportunity to sit down with the consultant towards the end of his visit and he told me what many of us already know we have a great group of young men in Beta Gamma.

The Founders Day Banquet will be held on April 2, 2016 at Velzy Commons on campus. The annual meeting of your Alumni Association will be held that afternoon. Both events give you an opportunity to see old friends and to make new ones. More on the Founders Day events will be mailed out soon.

You should also be receiving an Alumni Dues letter very soon. Please pay your dues it helps your Alumni Association maintain the excellence we have taken for granted all these years.

Thank you for your support throughout the years and I hope you have a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

David Ward 85
Alumni President

Brothers,

As another fall semester at UW-Platteville comes to an end we wanted to provide some updates regarding the University, School of Agriculture (SOA) and Alpha Gamma Rho, Beta Gamma Chapter.

In August of 2015, UW-Platteville kicked off a 15-month celebration of its 150th anniversary. For 150 years the university has provided affordable and accessible education to students of Southwest Wisconsin and more recently to students in Iowa, Illinois, and other parts of the country and the world. As we look back on our accomplishments during this celebration, we look forward with excitement as we continue to pioneer the future. Many events, presentations, and creative works will highlight the history of the university, including a Birthday Party to end the celebration on October 15, 2016. Visit www.uwplatt.edu/150 for details about the sesquicentennial celebration.

The University continues to work through significant challenges faced by the impending budget cuts. Recommendations have been made by faculty and staff governance groups representing all areas of the University. Final decisions regarding the budget cuts will be made in January 2016, so there is adequate time to act on them. If you would like further information on the budget reduction planning process please visit www.uwplatt.edu/budget and click on budget reduction planning.

In the SOA, enrollment number rose slightly from fall 2014. Fall 2015 figures show 836 SOA majors as compared to 826 in the fall of 2014. By major these enrollment figures include: Agribusiness (311 majors), Animal Science (285), Soil & Crop Science (101), Agricultural Education (68), Reclamation, Environment and Conservation (40), and Environmental Horticulture (31). The 836 SOA majors include 413 male students and 417 female students. We have two new faculty members who started in fall 2015. Dr. Pete Lammers, Assistant Professor of Animal Science, whose primary teaching responsibilities include multiple courses in animal nutrition and meat animal evaluation. Dr. Andrew Cartmill, Assistant Professor of Soil and Crop Science, whose primary teaching responsibilities include crop science and seed and grain crops. Dr. Annie Kinwa-Muzinga, Professor of Agribusiness, was awarded the UW System Alliant Energy Underkoffler Excellence in Teaching Award this past year.

The undergraduate chapter held another very successful and well attended Ag. Fest event at the house in September with Katie Pratt serving as the keynote speaker. Katie is from Dixon, Illinois and was named one of the Faces of Farming and Ranching by the U.S. Farmers and Ranchers Alliance (USFRA). Pratt, who is one of four Faces of Farming and Ranching and an Illinois Farm Families volunteer, serves as a national spokesperson, sharing her farming experiences in an effort to help answer consumers' questions about how food is grown and raised.

The undergraduates recently completed their Adopt a Highway cleanup, hosted a breakfast for the faculty and staff in the SOA and held a euchre tournament at the house on Veterans Day with all funds generated being donated to a veteran charity.

AGR undergraduate Nick Theisen represented UW-Platteville and the SOA on the United States Collegiate Crops Team that competed in the Australian Collegiate Crops Contest Sept. 16-18 in Temora, New South Wales. The contest included two teams from the United States and four Australian teams. The team qualified through United States national crops contests in Chicago, Ill., and Kansas City, Mo. The trip was 10 days, from Sept. 9-19, during which students were able to visit a variety of sites including farms, landmarks and tourist attractions. Along the way they learned a great deal about Australian agriculture.

The fall semester is rapidly coming to a close and we will be electing our new officer team for 2016 in December. Our goal is to continue assisting the undergraduates in living up to the promise and values of AGR through recruitment, opportunities for professional development and community service.



David Heimerdinger



Chuck Steiner

Fraternally,
Chuck Steiner and
David Heimerdinger
Beta Gamma Advisors

UW-Platteville Foundation: Alpha Gamma Rho Opportunities


As we all know, the UW-Platteville Foundation often calls for support of many university functions, and Alpha Gamma Rho is one of them. Alumni can donate to our chapter, no matter what the foundation calls about; ask for ways to support the Alpha Gamma Rho funds. Doors have been opened to active members for financial support, with the establishment of the Alpha Gamma Rho scholarship fund by our generous alumni and alumni association. This positive partnership with the UW-Platteville Foundation is brightening the Beta Gamma chapter's future.

The brothers of Beta Gamma have, as always, been representing Alpha Gamma Rho positively through scholarship, university engagement, professionalism, and community service. Many brothers are either retiring from or beginning officer positions in many of the 100+ clubs and organizations that the university offers.

Beta Gamma is at the top of the Greek men's GPA, with a cumulative average over a 3.1. We are proud to announce that we had the highest GPA for new initiates in the spring and I hope we will be able to say the same for this new fall class. We are working diligently toward regaining the title of best chapter GPA within the Greek community.

We had an outstanding fall recruitment, bringing in 19 great men. This brings the 2015 recruitment up to 23. Our new brothers quickly proved that we recruited hardworking men, coming up with the idea of a Veteran's Day Euchre Tournament that raised over \$300 for the DarkHorse Lodge, a retreat center for veterans. A few of the new members also jumped right in to leadership roles in the December elections.

With the combined effort of the current and new members, Beta Gamma is surely going to keep going in a positive direction and reaching new heights in years to come.



As the fall semester comes to an end,
I wish everyone a safe and Happy New Year!
Feel free to come visit anytime!

Fraternally,
Alex Noble, Noble Ruler #754

List of Lost Brothers

As Beta Gamma grows in leaps and bounds with every undergraduate class, with this fall semester breaking the recruitment record, it proves that our fraternity is growing a history and legacy. To get our story out to all alumni and Alpha Gamma Rho brothers we must have every brother's contact information, and we need your help in keeping great records! If you know somebody on the Lost Brothers List please contact Mitch Giebel at 608-548-5479 or giebelm@uwplatt.edu to give the current contact information for that person. This will help get them future news and statements, as we can not reach them at the current time, as their contact information is missing.

Dan Meyer #26
Donald Von Rueden #58
Richard Lenz #67
Kevin McMahon #117
Gary Klug #134

Michael Kirschbaum #272
Taylor Weisensel #306
Wayne DeBuhr #414
Jesse Bainbridge #502
Matthew Faulkner #580

Spring 2015 New Beta Gamma Brothers

CLASS: GAMMA UPSILON

Brother Joseph Acker #768
Hometown: Reedsburg, WI
Major: Agricultural Business & Animal Science

Brother Alex Krepline #769
Hometown: Valders, WI
Major: Agricultural Business
& Soil and Crop Science

Brother Trevor Brunk #770
Hometown: Cedar Rapids, IA
Major: Agricultural Business & AET

Brother Nicholas Huffman #771
Hometown: Hollandale, WI
Major: Agricultural Education
& Soil and Crop Science

We are updating the alumni directory!

Please let us know if any contact information has changed.

Please mail this form to:
845 W. Madison St.
Platteville, WI 53818

Or, email the information to:
heimerdd@uwplatt.edu

Name: Charles Miller

Address: 1119 Caswell St.

City: Fort Atkinson

State: WI Zip: 53538

Phone: _____

Email: _____