

BETA GAMMA CRESCENT

ALPHA GAMMA RHO FRATERNITY

MAY 2021

UW-PLATTEVILLE

BETA GAMMA AGR BROTHERS TEAM UP TO TRANSFORM AG-BAG BY RCI

While two AGR alumni graduated years apart, the AGR networks and connections allowed Randy Clark and Taylor Weisensel to connect during an industry event at World Dairy Expo. During this chance connection, a relationship was started that created a business connection that resulted into a well-known brand being reinvigorated and transformed by new owners. Here is their story.

Randy Clark's Journey

Randy Clark, PIN 499, pledged Alpha Gamma Rho in the fall of 1996 and graduated from UW-Platteville in December 2001 with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. Randy grew up on a dairy farm in the small town of LeRoy in eastern Wisconsin. This region of Wisconsin is known for dairy farming. Although Randy was born and raised on a dairy farm, his interest in farming was with the machinery and mechanization side. Randy's dream was to design combines for John Deere.

Randy chose UW-Platteville due to its proximity to John Deere in Dubuque. "I looked at the map of Wisconsin and saw that UW-Platteville was the closest agriculture college to any John Deere factory. My dream was to work at John Deere," recalled Randy.

Upon entering UW-Platteville, Randy's major was Agricultural Engineering; however, shortly after arriving in Platteville, he learned that this major was discontinued just prior to his arrival. Randy shared his disappointment in this decision to Dr. Fred Oomens. "When I talked with Dr. Oomens, he told me to change my major to Mechanical Engineering if I wished to design combines. Dr. Oomens assured me that he would mentor me even though I did not take his classes. He made all the difference in assuring me that I would be able to engineer agricultural machines while being able to stay at UW-Platteville and get involved in different agricultural groups like AGR, Ag Mechanization Club, and Collegiate FFA," Randy said. Randy is deeply grateful for his guidance. Randy said that Dr. Oomens was that person in his life that made the biggest impact. In fact, Dr. Oomens once loaned Randy and a team the money to build a Quarter Scale Tractor at UW-Platteville to compete in the national competition. A fellow AGR, Tom Schuh, PIN 491, and Randy Clark started the UWP Quarter-Scale Tractor Design team in 1998.

And as one might expect, Randy's career began at John Deere in Dubuque, IA where he worked nearly full-time hours while attending UW-Platteville. Upon graduation, Randy became the North American Self-Propelled Forage Harvester Product Engineer for John Deere in Ottumwa, IA and Zweibrücken, Germany. However, while at John Deere, Randy developed his desire to start his own company to design and manufacture agriculture equipment. His travels took him to forage harvesting operations around the world and he discovered a need for specialization that major manufacturers could not support.



In 2005, Randy founded RCI Engineering, LLC with a focus on hay and forage equipment. He began operations at his home farm in LeRoy, WI. Initially, he began building forage harvester attachments for different crops in different regions around the world for John Deere equipment through John Deere dealers. RCI's first manufacturing project was to build a combine draper head cross adapter kit for a forage harvester. Next, he began offering contract engineering which led to engineering and manufacturing of almond harvesters

and sweepers for the Central Valley of California. As the business grew, Randy engineered and built attachments for John Deere forage equipment, and expanded into plot research equipment used by seed and chemical companies, land grant universities, and the US Department of Agriculture.

One of RCI's contract engineering customers was Miller-St. Nazianz. Randy and his team began working with them for engineering and prototype manufacturing for the Ag-Bag product line in late 2010, after meeting Taylor Weisensel at World Dairy Expo.

Weisensel Adds Expertise to the Team

Taylor Weisensel, PIN 306, pledged Alpha Gamma Rho in the fall of 1983 and graduated from UW-Platteville in December 1986 with a degree in Technical Agriculture and Agriculture Economics minor. Taylor is from Beaver Dam, Wisconsin. His father was a DHIA Milk Tester. Taylor says that he spent his fair share of time in this role while in college. One of Taylor's key accomplishments during college was the establishment of a National Agri-Marketing Association Club (NAMA) Pioneer Student Chapter at UW-Platteville. Taylor is still an active member of NAMA today.

Taylor spent the last several decades as Ag-Bag, National Sales Manager, of forage bagging machines. For those unfamiliar, these are the machines that fill the large white plastic tubes with forage and grains that are frequently seen on dairy farms. Ag-Bag was founded in 1978 in the state of Oregon. The original owners sold the business to Miller-St Nazianz of St Nazianz, Wisconsin in November 2004. Then in 2014, Miller was acquired by CNH Industrial (Case New Holland). As Taylor describes it, the acquisition of Ag-Bag was not a good fit for CNH. "Ag-Bag was too small to get the proper support needed for Ag-Bag to continue to be a successful brand. I knew I had to convince CNH to sell Ag-Bag to allow the business to grow," recalled Taylor. Taylor witnessed this decline and managed to get a meeting with a ranking manager at CNH where he recommended that CNH sell the division. CNH agreed to sell the Ag-Bag division if Taylor could find a buyer.

When CNH began investigating new owner options for Ag-Bag in early 2019, Taylor contacted Randy Clark. Negotiations began and a successful transfer

Continued on page 6

CHAPTER ADVISOR REPORT

Ryan Pralle, Chuck Steiner & David Heimerdinger - Beta Gamma Advisors

Brothers,

What a year! As the 2020-21 school year comes to a close, we reflect on the year with pride. It was a tough year, fighting through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. While it would have been easy to give this year a "pass", AGR Beta Gamma continued to put in the work to make better men and contribute to our community. Across the Fall and Spring semesters we were able to recruit nine new initiates and we participated in several community events. Some events the brotherhood participated in are the local blood drive, a food drive for Operation Not Alone, compost bagging with the Agronomy club, and a highway pickup for our mile-long stretch of US 151.

Engagement between alumni and undergraduate Brothers saw substantial growth this year. The undergraduates and Alumni Board have been able to grow in their relationship and collaborate to improve upon the work of making better men at Beta Gamma. Much of this has been through the attendance of undergraduates at alumni board meetings, keeping the lines-of-communication open. Additionally, alumni support of the undergraduates has allowed for significant updates to the Chapter house, including carpet and stairway flooring replacement, and the painting of walls. The generous giving of our alumni to the Educational Foundation, as well as the Dennis Valstad Memorial Fund are being put to work! As Brother Laufenberg details (see "Scholarship Funds Article" article), your donations will be supporting Chapter recruitment and retention through recruitment and recognition scholarships. Finally, the young men of Beta Gamma are interested in increasing alumni contact in the recruitment process. This past semester, we were fortunate to have several alumni participate in a virtual recruitment event, playing euchre, which was well received by the undergraduates, alumni, and potential new members.

A survey conducted by alumnus Brother Mike Krutza (see "AGR Undergraduate and Advisor Survey Completed" article) highlighted a mutual desire for greater connection between the undergraduate and alumni network. To that end, the undergraduates have committed to redoubling their public relations and alumni outreach efforts, so they can share their good works on campus and in the community. For regular updates on Beta Gamma's efforts in recruitment, scholarship, and engagement on campus and with the community, take a look at our public Facebook page, "UW-Platteville Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity". This past semester, community engagement on our page has grown

substantially (>2,000%). Also, the undergraduates are collaborating with the Alumni Board to bolster our Crescent to be a more effective method of communication for the Chapter and Board. This will be especially important as our 50th anniversary approaches!

The Dairy Innovation Hub has begun making a significant impact to the School of Agriculture and Pioneer Farm this past year. Last August, Drs. Joe Sanford and Ryan Pralle joined the School of Agriculture faculty. Sanford is an agricultural engineer joining the Crop and Soil Science program, focusing on research and teaching related to wastewater and nutrient management. Pralle, our new Chapter Advisor, joins the Animal and Dairy Science programs conducting research and teaching related to dairy cow nutrition and management. There is a current search for a new faculty member specializing in dairy food science and management; if filled, the new faculty member will join the School of Agriculture in Fall 2021. Pioneer Farm is receiving a substantial upgrade supported by the Dairy Innovation Hub, as well. At this time, two Lely A5 automated milking system units are being installed in place of the previous system. Installation is expected to be completed by the end of May 2021. This much needed upgrade will significantly enhance the research, teaching, and demonstration potential of Pioneer Farm.

Members of the Pioneer Dairy Club and Block and Bridle club are especially proud this year. The 38th Pioneer Dairy Classic organized by the Pioneer Dairy Club averaged \$2,507 across 57 lots with the highest sale being \$9,400! Students were able to raise \$4,000 in monetary donations to support the sale and nearly \$4,000 from the silent auction. Pioneer Showdown had a record-breaking year with over 350 total entries. The Wisconsin Beef Improvement Association has declared this year's Bull Test Sale at Pioneer Farm a success. It consisted of 53 bulls of the Angus, Red Angus, Simmental, and Simm/Angus breeds. Bull sale price averaged \$3,525 with buyers from Wisconsin, Iowa, and Minnesota.

As you can see this has been quite the year at UW-Platteville and, despite the challenge of the pandemic, Beta Gamma continues to maintain a legacy of success. Thank you to all our AGR Beta Gamma Alumni members who have supported and contributed to the works of the Beta Gamma Chapter this year. Also, the advisors extend congratulations to our graduating brothers; thank you for commitment and contributions to UW-Platteville and Beta Gamma.

50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION – APRIL 1-2, 2022

Plans are underway to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Beta Gamma Chapter of Alpha Gamma Rho at UW-Platteville the weekend of April 1-2, 2022. Our chapter dates back to the late 1960's when the Platteville Colony of AGR was started at what was then known as the Wisconsin State University-Platteville. In April of 1972 the Colony status was removed and we became the Beta Gamma Chapter of Alpha Gamma Rho. Make plans now to attend. This will give you an "Golden" opportunity to renew old friendships and make new ones.

The weekend's events will kick off with a social gathering at Steve's Pizza in Platteville on Friday April 1st. Steve's is one of the few places in Platteville that has survived these past fifty years. On Saturday the Annual Meeting of the Beta Gamma Alumni Association will take place at the Technology Center at the College Farm. In addition, the Undergraduates will be giving tours of the college farm and of the campus for alumni and their significant others. The Undergrads will host an open house at 845 W. Madison prior to the 50th

Anniversary Banquet which will be held at the Velzy Commons in Ulsvik Hall (the Beaux Arts Room of the old Student Center).

The 50th Anniversary Planning Committee is working on securing a block of rooms at various Platteville hotels. Information on this will be shared with alumni by email when the room block is set up. The alumni board is hoping for a large turnout and they are asking you to contact members of your pledge class and close AGR friends and encourage them to attend this milestone in our history. It will be a weekend to remember.

If you have any memories or pictures that you would like to share, please contact Brother Jack Ellickson at jack.ellickson@gmail.com, 608-719-9455.



BROTHERS HELPING BROTHERS

*Donate to the Alpha Gamma Rho-Beta Gamma
or Dennis Valstad Endowed Scholarship Funds*

Beta Gamma Endowed Scholarship Fund

The funds will be used to provide scholarships for new member recruitment, attend AGR leadership conferences, attend AGR recruitment school, and for outstanding scholarship achievement.

Dennis Valstad Endowed Scholarship Fund

The funds will be used to provide scholarships to brothers with financial need.

All gifts will be included in lifetime giving to the chapter and on the giving tree at the chapter house.

- **GOLD: \$5,000+**
- **SILVER: \$2,500-\$4,999**
- **BRONZE: \$1,000-\$2,499**

Additional recognition will be made on gifts of \$10,000 or more.

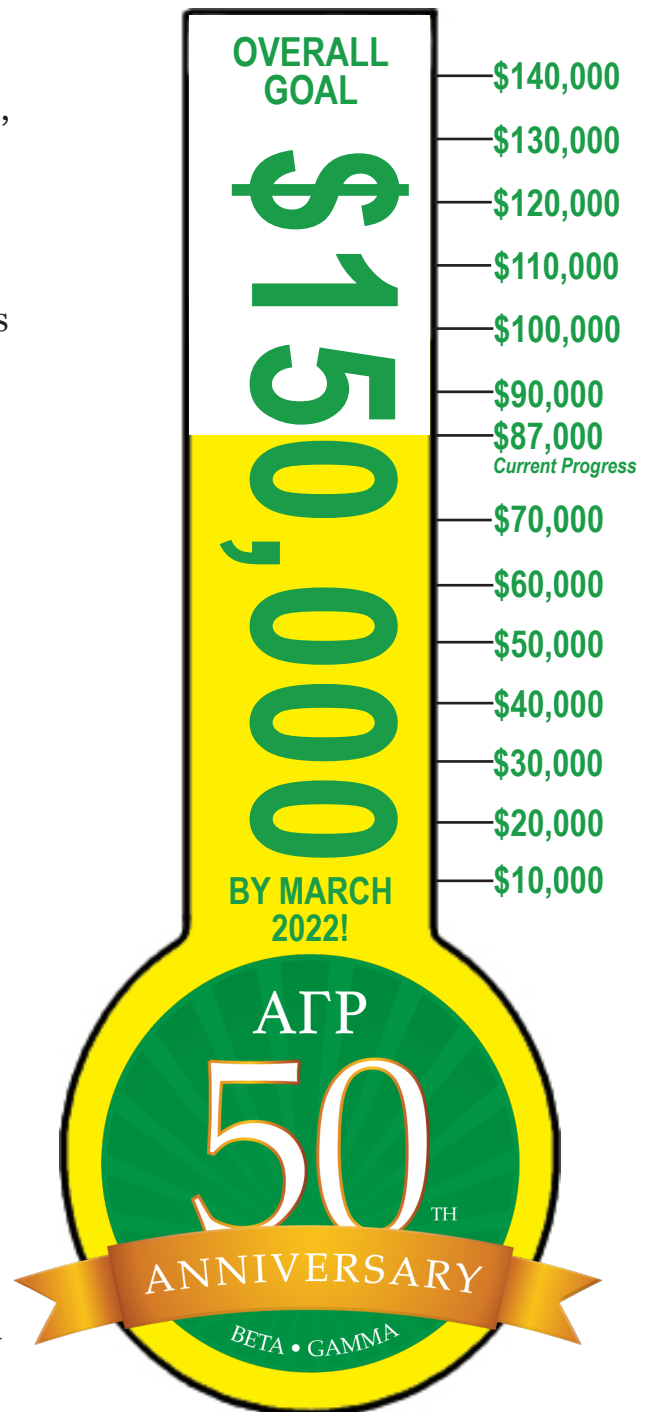
TO CONTRIBUTE BY CHECK

Make your check payable to the Educational Foundation of AGR and specify on the memo line which scholarship fund that you would like to contribute to: Beta Gamma or Dennis Valstad. Mail to Jordan Alf, Alumni Treasurer, 5210 N Grand Videre Dr, Janesville WI 53548.

TO CONTRIBUTE ONLINE

<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.



\$50 FOR 50 SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

The Beta Gamma Chapter of Alpha Gamma Rho is approaching an important milestone in 2022 – our 50th anniversary! To celebrate we are announcing the **\$50 for 50 Years Scholarship Fundraising Campaign**. To participate please donate \$50 for each year since you were initiated into Alpha Gamma Rho up until 2022 – our 50th Anniversary. Examples:

Initiated in 2017	\$50 x 5 years	\$250
Initiated in 2012	\$50 x 10 years	\$500
Initiated in 2002	\$50 x 20 years	\$1,000
Initiated in 1982	\$50 x 40 years	\$2,000

Eleven years ago, we made a significant investment in the future of Beta Gamma by remodeling and expanding the chapter house. As of this writing we are updating the house with new carpeting, furniture and a new parking lot. We have also established two endowed scholarship funds to assist, encourage and recognize undergraduate brothers. Combined, these things make AGR the premier Greek organization on campus with the best house!

Our goal is to raise a total of \$150,000 by March 2022 in the Beta Gamma and Dennis Valstad scholarship funds combined. To-date we have received gifts in excess of \$87,000! To kick off this campaign another AGR brother who wishes to remain anonymous will match all funds given before December 1, 2021 up to \$10,000.

The scholarship funds will be awarded and used for new member recruitment, to attend AGR leadership conferences, attend AGR recruitment school, for outstanding scholarship achievement, and to assist students with financial need. We are able to give one scholarship of \$1000 for each \$25,000 endowed. The first scholarships from these endowments will be awarded this fall.

We ask you to think about all that you have gained and accomplished since graduating from UW-Platteville. Reflect on the good times, relationships, mentors, connections in industry and brotherhood you have with over 800 members of Beta Gamma AGR. All **\$50 for 50** donors will be recognized at the 50th anniversary in 2022. All donations previously made to the Beta Gamma or Dennis Valstad funds will be counted toward the **\$50 for 50 Years** campaign. Donations in any amount will be accepted and appreciated.

TO CONTRIBUTE BY CHECK: Make your check payable to the **Educational Foundation of AGR** and specify on the memo line which scholarship fund that you would like to contribute to: Beta Gamma or Dennis Valstad. Mail to Jordan Alf, Alumni Treasurer, 5210 N Grand Videre Dr, Janesville WI 53548.

TO CONTRIBUTE ONLINE: <https://www.alphagammarho.org/donate> At Donation Type choose Scholarship Funds in the drop-down box then at Invest In choose either Beta Gamma or Dennis Valstad Memorial.

Donations to the scholarship funds are tax deductible.

DONATIONS TO THE BETA GAMMA SCHOLARSIP FUND

3 Michael B Sands	94 Ken Whitmore	296 Lyle Poch	483 Greg & Katie Wolf
7 James R Timm	106 Daniel Adams	320 Mike Daniels	496 Calvin Deetz
8 Ron Goplin	109 Charles Miller	324 Vincent Bush	504 Andrew Schraufnagel
10 Mark Highland	114 Francis Friar	335 Jonathan Braymer	526 Preston Vincent
19 Jeff Key	120 Pat Kelly	336 John C Oncken	573 Ben Lawfer
23 James Michael Blaska	121 Raymond Morse	343 Richard Grulke	623 Brandon Furseth
32 John Elvekrog	127 John Hulbert	358 Jon Loitz	652 Rick Bockhop
45 George Koerner Estate	149 Dale Pertzborn	367 Jeff Radl	685 Jordan Alf
48 Jeffrey Blaska	153 Earl Heimerdinger	370 Duane Schaefer	717 Konnor Johnson
57 Ken Von Rueden	168 Jeff Kroes	374 Frank Raupp	727 Michael Long
59 Stan Smith	178 Wayne Gerlach	382 Paul Steffes	792 Justin Nehls
75 Dennis Valstad Estate	207 Kerry Henning	398 Michael Grulke	Iota Jerry Steiner
78 Scott & Linda Weisinger	224 Scott Laufenberg	404 James Wendler	
81 David Houston	249 Gregg Raupp	418 Jerry Pegelow	
85 David Ward	266 Jeff Laufenberg	443 Mike North	
90 Jack Ellickson	282 John and Barb Scott	469 Eric Olson	

GIVING TREE UPDATE

Again, in this issue of the Crescent, we would like to recognize the brothers who have reached new award levels of giving since the Giving Tree was installed in the chapter house following the Building Campaign. Through their giving the brothers below will have an engraved leaf added to the Giving Tree. We wish to sincerely thank all donors, large and small, for truly helping AGR 'Make Better Men'.

Gold Level \$5,000 or more	N/A
Silver Level \$2,500 - \$4,999	#8 Ron Goplin
Copper level \$1,000 – 2,499	#57 Ken Von Rueden

ALPHA GAMMA RHO ALUMNI REPORT

Michael Long #727, Alumni Board President

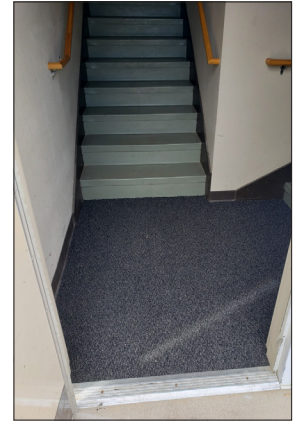
Many of our brothers, including myself have taken to the fields this spring to plant our 2021 crops into great a seedbed. We do everything we can to give these new seeds every opportunity to succeed. As an alumnus of the Beta Gamma chapter, I also feel it is our duty to provide our active chapter with all the resources they need to succeed. The Alumni Board has planted great seeds over the last year to grow our chapter to be stronger than ever.

In the past year, two scholarship funds have been created to support the undergrad chapter. Currently these funds are just short of \$90,000 and remain on track to reach our goals before the 50th Anniversary. The first scholarships will be awarded to brothers of Beta Gamma this fall! Please consider donating to the Beta Gamma Scholarship Fund and Dennis Valstad Scholarship Fund support the future of our chapter.

Since my last report the Alumni Board has acted to take advantage of lower mortgage interest rates. We have refinanced the house and borrowed an additional \$52,000. The new mortgage rate is 1.3% lower and our monthly payment decreased by \$50. The new funds have given us the opportunity to make needed improvements to the chapter house without having to asking our Alumni for financial assistance. New carpeting and fresh paint have been already been installed in both lounges and the library. The carpeted main staircase has also been replaced with an industrial rubber which should stand up much better to the high traffic it sees. This summer all of the bedroom will receive new paint and carpets. Replacement of the entire parking lot is also planned. I want to personally thank the active chapter for removing all of the old carpets and repainting rooms for us.

Congratulations to all of our graduating brothers. I wish you good luck in your future endeavors. As new Alumni I hope to see you at future Beta Gamma events. This past year has not allowed the Beta Gamma Alumni or many other organizations to host as many events as hope. In August I hope to see many of our Brothers at the BILSA Alumni Golf Outing. This should be a great opportunity to get together with Beta Gamma Alumni and other Platteville Alumni. If you are in need of partners to golf with please reach out to me and I will try to try to put you with other Beta Gamma Alumni.

Lastly, I want to welcome James Kruger #148 and Rodger Williams #791 who were elected to the Alumni Board at the annual meeting. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank outgoing directors Alex Buchanan #760 and Nick Huffman #771. Thank you for your service to Beta Gamma over the past few years.



BETA GAMMA STANDING COMMITTEES

House and Grounds

- Scott Laufenberg - Chair
- Chuck Miller
- VNR Operations-Ryan Kahlscheuer
- Open Position (Platteville Local Preferred)

Scholarship

- Scott Laufenberg - Chair
- Michael Long
- Ron Goplin
- Ken Von Rueden
- Lukas Wymer
- Noble Ruler- Griffin Headley
- VNR Scholarship- Mason Kruse
- Chapter Advisor- Dr. Ryan Pralle

50th Anniversary

- Jack Ellickson - Chair
- Lukas Wymer
- VNR-Alumni Relations - Zach Mickelson
- Alumni Board
- Open Position

Crescent Publication

- Chuck Miller - Chair
- VNR-Alumni Relations – Zach Mickelson
- Chapter Advisor - Dr. Ryan Pralle

Activities

- Open Positions
- VNR Alumni Relations

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.

KNOW YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Michael Long #727 joined the Beta Gamma Alumni Board in the spring of 2019 as secretary and in 2020 became the president of the Alumni Board. Long graduated with B.S. degrees from UW-Platteville in 2016 with majors in Soil and Crop science and Ag Business. He served as VNR of finance for the collegiate chapter. Long lives in Big Rock, IL and works as a grain originator at CHS. He buys grain for the local CHS ethanol plant as

well as barge loading terminals on the IL River and fall delivery elevators. Long also farms with his father on the family farm as the 4th generation. Long is also involved in his local county farm bureau and FFA chapters in the area.



Jordan Alf #685 is serving as Alumni Treasurer. Alf is the middle of his third term on the alumni board. He graduated from Platteville in 2013 with a degree in Agribusiness, with an emphasis in Agriculture Engineering Technology. After graduation he went on to work for John Deere and Trackside Solutions as a technician, traveling domestically and internationally, assisting product development and customer support teams. In 2017 Alf moved back

home to Wisconsin and took a job as Assistant Service Manager at Mid-State Equipment in Columbus; then in 2019 took on the role of Service Manager. Alf lives in Janesville, WI with his girlfriend. In their free time they enjoy traveling and snowmobiling. As an undergrad he served as Noble Ruler for two years. Alf served as an Undergraduate Director on the National AGR Board of Directors. In this role he had the opportunity to travel to board meetings across the country and assist with the National Convention. He enjoys being able to serve on the Beta Gamma Alumni Board and to be able to give back to the chapter, which provided him with so many great opportunities and connections!



Justin Nehls, #792 pledged in 2016 and was member of the Gamma Psi class. Nehls' graduated from UWP in Spring 2018 with a major in Animal Science. He is from and currently lives in Juneau, WI. Nehls' is employed as a Dairy Field Representative for Dairy Farmers of America and also works on the home farm. On the Alumni Board Nehls' serves as Secretary. His hobbies include attending Country Music concert, working with his dairy cows and bowling. Nehls' favorite AGR memory is running the table with Paul Grulke.



Jim Kruger #148 – Nu Class and graduated from UWP in 1978 with a degree in Animal Science. Kruger is co-owner and General Manager of So-Fine Bovines, LLC located in Westfield, WI where they milk 700 Cows and farm 2,800 Acres. So-Fine is also part owner of Burr Oak Heifers, LLC in Coloma, WI where they raise 3,000 dairy heifers. Along with his son, Jakob, who was an AGR at Iowa State- ETA Chapter. Jakob graduated from Iowa State in 2019 with a

degree in Ag Business and is currently Crop Manager for So-Fine Bovines. This is Kruger's 2nd term on the Alumni Board. As an undergrad Kruger served as Noble Ruler in 1977, which was the 5th Anniversary and Chairman of Recruitment and the Committee that started "Ag Fest". Kruger has also served as Treasurer of Professional Dairy Producers of Wisconsin, Vice President and Treasurer of Wisconsin Corn Growers, Dairy Committee Chairman of Wisconsin Farm Bureau, President of Marquette County Farm Bureau, President of Immanuel Lutheran Church Council.



Scott Laufenberg #224 was initiated in the spring of 1979 as member of the Phi pledge class. Laufenberg graduated with a degree in Technical Agriculture and Ag Econ minor in 1981. This is his third term on the alumni board, serving as president twice and as chairman of the finance committee for the house remodel in 2010. His current responsibilities on the board are as chairman of scholarship house improvement committees. Laufenberg is from Iron Ridge,

WI in Dodge County. He and his wife, Julie, have been married for 38 years and are proud parents of two adult daughters. Jamie and her husband, Tom, are both UWP grads. Tom also serves on the UW-Platteville Alumni Committee. Daughter, Linsey, is single and lives in Madison. Laufenberg spent the bulk of my 39-year working career in the animal health care business working for Fort Dodge and Boehringer Ingelheim specializing in dairy. At BI he was the Regional Manager of the Midwest business for 20 years. He retired in January of 2021 and has been very busy serving on two boards of directors and on some additional committees. His hobbies include hunting, fishing, shooting sporting clays and any other outdoor activity.



Chuck Miller #109 was initiated in 1973 as a member of the Iota pledge class. Miller graduated from UWP in 1975 with a degree in Agri-Business. He is originally from Oshkosh and currently lives in Fort Atkinson, WI. Upon graduation from UWP Miller spent 5 years working for Farm Credit. Following this Miller worked in the A.I. Industry working for Landmark and Alta Genetics in sales and management for 26 years. The last 10 years of his career Miller was the Senior Director of Nasco Farm and Ranch, managing the Farm catalog before retiring in 2020. Miller represented both companies as a member of the Board of World Dairy Expo. This is Miller's second term on the Board having been president 10 years ago during the house remodel project. Miller manages the Beta Gamma address file and is currently serving as Crescent Editor, a newly created Board position. He is married to Cheri, has 3 children, 1 step son, and 9 grandchildren. Chuck's hobbies include wood-working, home maintenance, and camping.

Rodger Williams #791 graduated in 2017 with a degree in Soils and Crop Science. Williams is from and lives in Doylestown WI. He is employed at United Cooperative. His hobbies are farming and going to badger football games. His favorite memory AGR was catching a touchdown pass in the annual keg bowl.

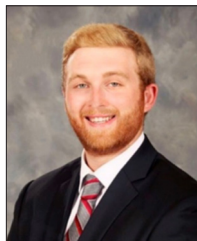
Continued from page 1

of ownership was accomplished in November 2019. During the acquisition, Randy learned first-hand how valuable Taylor's connection to the business and the Ag-Bag dealer network. "When considering the purchase of Ag-Bag, it was very important to bring Taylor along with the business. Taylor understands the forage bagging business, and he knows the dealer network which span across the US and Canada. It was a great opportunity to bring Taylor into the RCI Engineering business," Randy said.

Since the purchase in 2019, RCI Engineering has listened to Taylor Weisensel and the Ag-Bag dealers to engineer, design, and manufacture substantial improvements to the Ag-Bag product line. The new Ag-Bag models are being manufactured now, and the product improvements have already generated many retail sales for 2021. Ag-Bag by RCI has transformed the Ag-Bag brand to the industry and repositioned itself for years of future growth and development to forage, commodity, seed and biowaste Ag-Bagging.

Continued on page 9

DEVON FREDERICK RECOGNIZED BY UW-PLATTEVILLE AND AGR



Past Noble Ruler, Devon Frederick PIN 823, has been the recipient of some very prestigious awards and scholarships from National AGR and UW-Platteville. Throughout Devon's time at UW-Platteville and Alpha Gamma Rho, he has been an excellent role model, leader, and scholar. In addition to being a past Noble Ruler and VNR Membership Development, he served on the United Greek Council as the President and Academic Development

Specialist. From National Alpha Gamma Rho, Devon was selected to receive the AGR Excellence Scholarship in 2020. This scholarship is awarded to brothers who excel in leadership, citizenship, activities, and fraternal involvement.

He was one of only four brothers to receive this award nationwide. Recently, at a Ceremony on April 16, 2021 Devon received two University Leadership Awards for his outstanding achievements on campus. First, Devon received the Chancellor's Medallion Award for his leadership within the campus community. Finally, Devon was awarded the Honorary Lifetime Pioneer Award. This award recognizes a student who excels in academics, professional development, and campus leadership. The recipient must be a strong supporter of UW-Platteville programs and have the potential to be an active member of the UWP Alumni Association. Brother Frederick's leadership and dedication has been unmatched. Congratulations, Devon, on your accomplishments!

BROTHERS FOR LIFE

Dave Ward #85

Next year Beta Gamma will be celebrating 50 years of brotherhood. For those of us who were at UWP in April 1972, we have gotten to know many men who we call brothers but more important we call them friends. We still get together talk about our career's, families and share our memories of 845 W. Madison. This wasn't always the case as after we graduated started work, got married, started families, had children and spent many enjoyable hours going to kid's concerts, school plays, sporting events and family vacations. Many of us from AGR were fortunate to see our brothers at events like World Dairy Expo, State Fair and Farm Technology Days. When we met, we got caught up on our lives and made a commitment to get together more often. Unfortunately, those meetings were too few and too far in between.

Those of us in Beta Gamma are lucky we have a Brother like Ron Goplin,

PIN #008. Ron took it upon himself to start contacting brothers and setting up a breakfast every other month on a Saturday where we had as many as 25 or as few as 5 alumni in attendance.

As more joined the retired crowd Ron set up card games that we all enjoyed. Covid has put a stop to our breakfasts but it did not stop Ron's ability to get us together. Each week we get an invitation from Ron to play cards virtually. While this is not the same as meeting in person it is the next best thing.

Ron's initiative enabled many of us to appreciate what we have in being a brother in Alpha Gamma Rho. As I was sitting at one of the breakfast meetings with one of the original colony members he mentioned to me, "isn't this amazing what was started back in the late 60's and early 70's". Thanks Ron for reminding us that we are "Brothers for Life."

BILSA ALUMNI GOLF OUTING

The Oaks, Cottage Grove, WI – Aug 20, 2021

Support students of the UW-Platteville College of Business, Industry, Life Science and Agriculture on Friday, August 20th by attending a fun-filled day to raise funds for scholarships. 8 a.m. Registration at the clubhouse (time subject to change) 9 a.m. Shotgun start. Cost \$100 per person; boxed lunch included.

If you do not have a foursome, please contact Michael Long and he will try to connect you with other golfers. For more information, please see this link, <https://www.uwplatt.edu/events/2021/08/bilsa-alumni-golf-outing>

UW-Platteville Alpha Gamma Rho - Alumni Board 2021-2022

President - Micheal Long

11461 County Line Rd, Big Rock, IL 60511
815-508-7119, mlong18@gmail.com
2019-2022

Treasurer - Jordan Alf

5210 N Grand Videre Dr, Janesville, WI 53548
608-449-1459, jordan.alf@outlook.com
2019-2022

Secretary - Justin Nehls

W5658 Cty Rd S, Juneau, WI 53039
920-296-1740, nehls.justin@yahoo.com
2019-2022

Director - James Kruger

N6221 County Road J, Westfield, WI
608-296-3654, sofinebo@frontier.com
2021-2024

Director - Scott Laufenberg

4561 Golf Drive, Windsor, WI 53598
608-575-6189, slaufenb@gmail.com
2020-2023

Director - Chuck Miller

1119 Caswell St, Fort Atkinson, WI 53538
608-628-5799, cmiller4424@gmail.com
2020-2023

Director - Rodger Williams

PO Box 48, Doylestown, WI 53948
920-210-3507, rodger.williams57@gmail.com
2021-2024

AGR UNDERGRADUATE AND ADVISOR SURVEY COMPLETED

During the spring 2021 semester the undergraduate brothers (actives) and advisors completed a survey similar to the recent Beta Gamma alumni survey. Alumni brother Mike Krutza graciously met with the undergraduates, developed the survey and summarized the results. This was completed to assess the undergraduates and advisors' opinions, views and expectations of the chapter. Data was collected from 27 undergraduate brothers and the three advisors with a 97% response rate.

Data from the survey is being used to develop promotional items for prospective brothers and their parents. It has also initiated conversations within the undergraduate chapter and with alumni. The survey has identified areas of strength and opportunities for growth and development.

This was possibly the first survey of the undergraduate chapter conducted since we became a colony in 1968. This survey data has provided valuable information for the advisors, undergraduates, and alumni as we prepare for the 50th Anniversary of Beta Gamma at Founder's Day on April 2, 2022. It will also provide information we can use for strategic planning the next several years. A summary of key questions and responses from the survey are provided.

Question: What are the most important benefits from AGR?

Top responses:

1. Social Interaction
2. Agricultural background
3. Post college relationships
4. Transition to college

Question: How satisfied are you with your AGR experiences at UW-Platteville?

100% of advisors, 90% of undergraduates and 96% of Alumni were either extremely or very satisfied.

Question: Preferred means of staying connected with the AGR Chapter?

The top three rankings for each group are listed.

1. Alumni: Facebook, Group Breakfasts, email group

2. Advisors: Homecoming, Facebook, email group
3. Undergraduates: Facebook, Homecoming, email group

Question: What type of information do you want from alumni?

Top three responses:

1. Assistance coordinating alumni/undergraduate activities
2. Email lists by career focus/major
3. Alumni lists by geographic area

Question: Describe the undergraduate (active) culture of Beta Gamma today.

1. 83% of undergraduates described culture as respectful (kind, gracious, grateful)
2. 66% described culture as honest (word is bond)
3. 52% described culture as selfless (humble, think of others)

A survey question discussing the competitive advantages identified academic excellence, source of friends and brotherhood unity as areas where Beta Gamma was better than most. It also identified community service and alumni network as areas that can be further developed.

The current benefits of relationships between undergraduate brothers and Beta Gamma Alumni were career insights/mentorship and financial oversight. As a result of the survey analysis, the undergraduates are planning to increase social media, email and other communication strategies to ensure alumni are aware of the activities of the chapter and the positive influence they are having on campus and in the community. They are also working with the alumni board to increase communication and connections.

We greatly appreciate the assistance of alumni Mike Krutza, John Meyers, and the Alumni Board as we look forward to strengthening relationships and sharing the active chapter story.

Officer Team & Contact Info

Noble Ruler: Griffin Headley, headleyg@uwplatt.edu

VNR-Recruitment: Collin Bays, baysc@uwplatt.edu

VNR-Membership Development: Connor Brickley, brickleyc@uwplatt.edu

VNR-Alumni Relations: Zachary Mickelson, mickelsonz@uwplatt.edu

VNR-Finance: Baxter Peetz, peetzb@uwplatt.edu

VNR-Planning: Hayden Funk, funkh@uwplatt.edu

VNR-Operations: Ryan Kalscheuer, kahlscheuerr@uwplatt.edu

VNR-Scholarship: Mason Kruse, krusem@uwplatt.edu

VNR-Activities: Jay Long, longjay@uwplatt.edu

VNR-Public Relations: Blake Gieck, gieckb@uwplatt.edu

VNR-Provisions: Dylan Herbrand, herbranddy@uwplatt.edu

Advisors

David Heimerdinger, heimerdd@uwplatt.edu

Charles Steiner, steinerc@uwplatt.edu

Ryan Pralle, praller@uwplatt.edu

GRADUATING SENIORS



Seth Bartelt - Kewaskum, Wisconsin

I have gained amazing friendships, opportunities and connections that have truly changed my life and college career for the better that can never be taken away and I am truly appreciative.

My hobbies include showing and raising livestock, snowmobiling, and hanging out with friends and family.

I am the fifth generation on my family's farm where we raise beef that we sell directly to the consumer as well as family influences in and around agriculture. I worked on a show cattle farm in Mineral Point, Wisconsin during my career at UW-Platteville where I have learned many skills that most do not see on regular farming operations.

I have been hired by Farmers' Grain and Feed in Allenton, Wisconsin where I am hired as Management Trainee where I will overlook many aspects of the facilities and enterprises that go along with the company. I also plan to return home to help on my family beef operation in Kohlsville, Wisconsin.



Andrew Mack - Sauk City, Wisconsin

I am Andy Mack. I am from outside of Sauk Prairie Wisconsin. In my free time I enjoy hunting and fishing. I grew up working on our family farm and have had a few other jobs working on farms while I was in high school. I am graduating with a degree in MTM and will work at plastic ingenuity once I graduate. While I was at Platteville AGR has brought me lots of connections in the ways of lifelong friends and connections that might help me in my future professional career.



Devon Frederick - Lake Geneva, Wisconsin

While being in AGR I have gained lifelong brotherhood, professional development, & leadership opportunities. In the future I plan to work at Scot Forge located in Spring Grove, IL where I will put my mechanical engineering degree to work. From a very young age, I grew up spending nearly every day on my family's farm in Lake Geneva, WI. I have continued to work there over breaks and summers to help with field crops, beef cattle, and our cocoa hull mulch business.

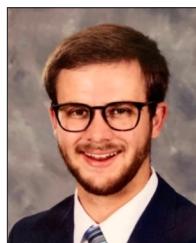
My hobbies include: Fishing, Boating, & Drone Aerial Photography. In my time at UW-Platteville, I have been involved in several intramural sports, leadership positions within ALD & PES honor societies, and leadership roles including President of United Greek Council.

Continued from page 6

Randy credits his success to Dr. Fred Oomens and his education at UW-Platteville. So much so that his RCI Engineering company colors even resemble those of UW-P – orange and blue. In addition, RCI currently employs six UW-Platteville graduates and two of his employees are parents of UW-Platteville graduates. Dr. Oomens was a Chapter advisor from 1994 to 2002. He passed away on April 3, 2020. He was 81 years old.

Randy and his wife, Wendy, live in Mayville, WI with their three sons, Ryan, Isaac, and Colin. Wendy is December 2000 graduate of UW-Madison with degrees in Dairy Science and Agriculture Journalism. She is originally from Sun Prairie, WI. Taylor and his wife, Laurie, live in Green Bay with their family living in Wisconsin and Texas.

Chuck Miler and Scott Laufenberg met with Randy, Wendy, and Taylor at RCI headquarters in Mayville on April 22, 2021.



Ryan Jaeger - Cleveland, Wisconsin

I'm Ryan Jaeger from Cleveland Wisconsin. I grew up helping out on my grandparent's dairy farm where I would spend most of my summer days and weekends. I enjoy golfing, disc golfing, being with family, and listening to Bob Uecker call the Brewers game. At UW-Platteville I majored in Mechanical Engineering. After graduating I will be moving to Madison where I'll be working as a Mechanical Engineer for Strand Associates. AGR has given me tons of memories and friends for a lifetime of stories.



Jay Hufnagel - Henry, Illinois

I am from Henry, IL, which is about 3 hours south of Platteville. My major is Construction Management. My hobbies include fishing, hunting, farming, trucking, and riding my motorcycles. My background in Ag is that I have spent my entire life farming, even though my family no longer farms. I work for many different farms in my community as well as several in the Platteville area. This

allowed me to experience many different aspects of the Ag community such as grain farming, beef cattle, and even specialty crops such as Christmas Trees. While at UW-Platteville, I participated in the Pioneer Sportsman Club and the Automotive Enthusiasts Club. After I graduate, I will be working at Stenstrom Excavation and Blacktop as an assistant superintendent. I hope to one day be able to move closer to home so I can help on the farm when I have free time. AGR allowed me to meet a lot of guys who had very similar interests to me, which I never would have done if I had not joined. It also allowed me to gain leadership experience as an officer as well as helped me to make contacts that I will be benefit from for my entire life.

CONGRATULATIONS SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Highest GPA	Devon Fredrick	\$250
Most Improved GPA	Collin Bays	\$250
Key Committee Man	Griffin Headley	\$250
Outstanding Undergraduate	Jay Long	\$250
4.0-3.5 GPA	Baxter Peetz (Fall 19)	\$100
	Jake Mathias (Fall 20)	\$100
3.49-3.25 GPA	Andrew Mack (Spr 19)	\$100
	Ryan Jaeger (Fall 19)	\$100
	Lucas Boomgarden (Fall 20)	\$100
	Dylan Herbrand (Fall 20)	\$75
3.24-3.0 GPA	Hayden Funk (Spr 19)	\$50
	Blake Gieck (Fall 19)	\$50
	Mason Kruse (Fall 20)	\$50

NOBLE RULER REPORT SPRING 2021

Griffin R. Headley #840

Greetings from the Beta Gamma Chapter; I hope this letter finds all brothers well and in good health. The undergraduates of Beta Gamma have as usual been doing an excellent job of living the promise and values of Alpha Gamma Rho through brotherhood, community service, scholarship, and professionalism.

The Beta Gamma Chapter has remained a prominent organization among clubs and Greek Life here at UW-Platteville. Following the Fall's two graduating seniors, and the Delta Iota initiate class of four new members, the undergraduate chapter currently sits at 29 members. While both the Fall and Spring initiate classes were small, they are proficient in ambition and potential. Of the ten men recruited this school year, two are already holding officer positions. Although the chapter fell short of typical recruitment goals, this school year has been nothing we could have prepared to deal with. Coming back in the Fall to almost completely online classes, as well as other clubs and organization meetings being held via zoom, there has been difficulty meeting new people and establishing relationships with potential members. We will be back to in-person class in the Fall, and ready to get back to the typical recruitment season, as well as implementing some new tactics for gaining members.

This February, we had the first virtual Alpha Gamma Rho Leadership Seminar. While this was a different atmosphere than what we all know Leadership Seminar to be, it was nevertheless informative. The benefit of being online is that we were able to host almost the entire chapter at the event rather than just our officer team. This way, everyone can participate and interpret leadership advice and methods to implement into our Chapter. All the brothers were able to walk away with some new insight on improving our chapter's recruitment, finances, scholarship, and brotherhood. Additionally, our recruitment officer attended virtual Recruitment School. These national seminars really are beneficial to not only our Chapter, but Alpha Gamma Rho nation-wide. I am proud of the Beta Gamma Chapter in finding both personal and professional development through these events, and I hope to continue to see levels of participation remain as high as they have this Spring. We are looking forward to Representing Wisconsin, along

with the Iota and Alpha Psi Chapters, at this year's National Convention held in Milwaukee as it has been pushed back from last year.

I cannot emphasize enough how grateful the undergraduate chapter is for all the renovations we have received this Spring from our gracious Alumni Board. I truly feel that we have some of the most dedicated Alumni backings out of any national chapter. For those of you unable to attend our first virtual Founder's Day this year, we have just recently received new carpets in the common areas, new vinyl flooring in the main stairway, and we have been painting all the walls in the house to get the house in tiptop shape for our 50th anniversary coming next Spring. We will be removing all the furniture from the bedrooms before we leave for the summer to accommodate new carpet in those rooms as well.

As I reflect on this semester, I am very proud of our Chapter's achievements. We achieved a fraternity-wide GPA of 3.38, one of the highest in our Chapter's history. We have also been fortunate enough to have a great Public Relations chair, who constantly uploads photos and updates for all our alumni brothers to keep up with us and see what we are up to each week. I am pleased to see all the involvement, and how our Executive Board really works as a team. I am also appreciative of all the engagement our brothers have demonstrated this semester; We have brothers involved in almost every club, and even a few student governance positions within the University. I am thankful for the opportunity to have gotten to know all the seniors. They have genuinely impacted all of us undergrads and shown us how to lead and work together as a whole. I really believe we as a Chapter are continuing to uphold the promises and values of the Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity and will carry the tradition for semesters to come.

As this Spring semester winds down, I hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable Summer. I look forward to serving this Chapter and all of you as Noble Ruler in the coming Fall. I feel forever indebted for what this organization has provided me, both socially and professionally. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us, and feel free to stop in and visit your brothers here at 845 West Madison Street!

DECEASED BETA GAMMA BROTHERS

1 Dr Robert Campbell	87 Thomas Kellom	167 Roy Luedtke	311 Raymond Key
2 John Wegmueller	88 John Wachholz	179 Ronald Hagen	341 Roy Hoff
20 Ron Suda	89 Dr Richard Loberger	186 Dale Wiederholt	356 Gary Hodge
24 Frank Schreiber	91 Warren Pett	255 Dr Charles DeNure	366 Dr Harold Beals
36 William Wesp	102 John Marotz	259 Lawrence Prem	376 Karl Cornelius
41 Darrell Roberts	104 James McComish	275 Dr Lloyd Linden	412 Dean Strauss
45 George Koerner	107 William Von Rueden	278 David V Neuenschwander	457 Dr Fred Oomens
60 Steven R Windett	115 Wayne Zentner	286 Kevin Knuth	579 Jeffrey Klever
73 John A Kruger	130 Timothy Thompson	290 Douglas Fitzsimmons	701 Joseph Smolenski
75 Dennis Valstad	138 Duane Sherven	297 Jerome Hendrickson	

LOOKING FOR MISSING BROTHERS

47 John McMahon	350 John Sorg	612 Seth Richolson
64 Eugene Mulligan	372 Gary Schultz	688 Rene Versteeg
145 Timothy Becker	420 Timothy Troester	697 Joshua Richards
147 Gary Ruegsegger	472 David Bacon	721 Jacob Otter
198 Randall Williams	490 Tony Leake	752 Devery VanLandingham
251 Brian Brown	502 Jesse Bainbridge	755 Dylan Clarke
274 Wendell Weisensel	537 Joshua Costello	
287 Bruce McNaughton	564 Carl Ward	
322 David Schoppe	580 Mathew Faulkner	

WELCOME NEW INITIATES



Trevor Verhagen

Hello, my name is Trevor Verhagen and I am from Kaukauna Wisconsin. I am a Sophomore at UW-Platteville studying Manufacturing Technology and Management. My ag background consists of working on a local dairy farm for the past 5 years. In joining AGR I hope to develop many lifelong friendships, connections, and to grow my leadership skills through the core values of our fraternity. Outside of school I enjoy golfing, snowmobiling, hunting, fishing, and softball. Outside of AGR I am also a member of the Golf club, Engineering club, Football, and Baseball.



Ryan Killian

Hello, my name is Ryan Killian, and I am from Deforest Wisconsin. I am currently a sophomore majoring in mechanical engineering. I worked on a farm in the Morrisonville area in high school. While being in AGR I hope to gain opportunities for my future career path and make relationships that will help me grow into a better man. I enjoy fishing, hunting, and snowmobiling.



Luke Trustem

Hi, my name is Luke Trustem I am a Freshman majoring in Dairy Science. I am from Evansville WI where I grew up on my family's 3000 cow dairy farm called Larson Acres. In the future I plan the pursue a career as a Dairy Consultant, and eventually return to my family farm. My hobbies are showing and working with my show cows. I joined AGR to create lifelong friendships and build connections.



Zach Wynstra

Hello I am Zach Wynstra. I am from Clinton, Wisconsin and am a freshman at UW-Platteville majoring in Construction Management. A majority of my agriculture background is from growing up working on farms and showing pigs. I joined Alpha Gamma Rho in hopes of obtaining new professional and leadership skills, to help benefit me in my future endeavors. Besides for AGR some of my hobbies include: Hunting, bow fishing, wrestling, and weight lifting. A few other clubs I am involved in are Block and Bridle and FFA.

RECRUITMENT REPORT

Collin Bays #838, VNR Recruitment

Virtual Recruitment this past year has been a whole new experience. It has gone very well and has given us a new tool to use in the future. Now we are looking forward to recruiting new brothers in-person again beginning this fall. We will be kicking things off this summer by sending letters out to incoming freshman. This will give us the opportunity to reach out to students in a timelier way with material on Alpha Gamma Rho, important events, and information on the new scholarships that we are now offering (thanks to all of you wonderful alumni!).

This summer we will be exhibiting at the Wisconsin State FFA Convention in

Madison during the week of July 5th. This will give us the opportunity to reach out to high school students and introduce them the benefits of joining AGR. This fall, we are looking towards our annual Ag Fest, scheduled for Tuesday, September 21st at 6 p.m. at the Chapter House. Mark your calendars and join us! We are very excited to see what this fall brings.

If you know of any young man planning to attend Platteville, please contact anyone at the active chapter and let us know. My number is 608.547.2473, and my email is bayesc@uwplatt.edu. Thanks again!

Notice of Alumni Dues

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

I would like my donation applied toward:

☐ 2021 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://2021-alumni-dues.cheddarup.com> or scan this QR code.



SCAN ME

Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity
1119 Caswell St
Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

BETA GAMMA CHAPTER CRESCENT

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Kansas City, MO
Permit No. 4092

Upcoming Events

August 20	BILSA Golf Outing, The Oaks, Cottage Grove
September 2	Fall Semester begins
September 13	First meeting of semester 7pm
April 1-2, 2022	50th Anniversary Celebration

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. Thank you.