



BETA GAMMA CHAPTER Crescent



SPRING 1999

ALPHA GAMMA RHO
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-PLATTEVILLE

NO. 73

Advisor Report



The Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity entered a new era of fraternal existence in 1992. The brotherhood program was put into place and several changes were initiated in the conduct of AGR business. Recruitment is everyone's responsibility; new membership quality control is strictly enforced; the entire chapter membership is involved in the extension of membership offers; initiation takes place within 72 hours of the acceptance of a bid; education becomes a real part of big brothers responsibility; pledging is non-existent; and hazing is no longer tolerated.

In February, ten Beta Gamma actives and their advisor traveled to Indianapolis to participate in the 1999 Leadership Conference which focused on a review of the brotherhood program. Specifically, participants were asked to share the chapters experience in their recruitment operations, the 72 hour rule, and membership development. What Beta Gamma members learned from this experience was that our efforts are right on target. We not only comply with the "spirit of the law" we are in compliance with the "letter of the law." Beta Gamma makes it work.

Several outcomes of making it work are beginning to surface. Beta Gamma placed 4th in GPA standings of all Greek organizations last fall. We had 20 people in the house in the fall and 18 right now. Membership has grown to include 32 men, 28 of which are extremely active in the organization. Executive board membership is stable throughout the year. Our rival no longer has enough membership to field a football team and the trophy is back in our house. Monday night meetings do not last over 1 hour, and there is more soda pop coming to the BYOB parties.

Once again, it is my pleasure to report a satisfying experience in the guidance of this fraternity. It is my hope that we can continue to provide continuity of leadership through preparation of successors for the critical positions such as finance, alumni relations, provisions, and operations. The leadership at Beta Gamma is striving to develop documentation of each officers role in the chapter's operation (including the advisor). It is our goal to assure the membership that officer transition

will provide a minimum of operational disruption and maximum progress along the continuum of excellence.

Alumni President Report

By Scott Laufenberg

1999 has started off very nicely. The momentum started in 1998 is continuing. Let me share some results.

- Foundation for the Future is continuing to do very well. In 1999 we have collected \$1875 in dues and \$3262 in contributing member donations.
- Sale of 880 Union St. property was concluded on 12-31-98
- Remodel project for the first floor bathroom is under way.
- 20 actives are living in the house, the highest number in recent years.
- 14 new brothers were initiated in the current school year.
- AGR highest GPA of all the Greeks (Farm House is dead last)
- "Senior Night" dinner was started, 4 Seniors made donations to Foundation for the Future.
- National Rep. Cody Lane gave us a great review and suggests we "KEEP THE EXCITEMENT GOING IN 1999"

I would like to welcome Mike North and Kevin Klubertanz to the board, Rick Blakely was reelected for a second term. The only disappointment so far in 1999 was the low turnout for both the annual meeting and Founders Day Banquet. We intend to review this and make some changes in 2000. Please feel free to direct any board related questions to myself at 608-348-3765 or any other board member.

Fraternally, Scott Laufenberg

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- Memories Of The Past
- Senior Farewells
- Spring 1999 Initiate Class
- National Leadership Conference
- 1999 Beta Gamma Officers
- Von Rueden Scholarship
- Beta Gamma Winter Retreat

Alumni Corner

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608-348-6470

Dr. Fred Oomens

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608-348-9630

Here is an Opportunity to Get Involved!

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

Finance Committee	Jason Brown
Alumni Relations	Scott Laufenberg
Active Chapter	Rick Blakely
Building and Grounds	Greg Raupp

Beta Gamma 1999 New 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

Meet the Newest Board Members

New Alumni Board Members

My name is Kevin Klubertanz. I joined Alpha Gamma Rho as part of the Alpha Zeta class. I graduated with an Agriculture Engineering Degree. I am currently the Senior Product Engineer with J-Star Industry. My wife Barbara and I have three gorgeous children, Matthew (9), Kara (7), and Megan (2). In my spare time, I enjoy skiing, golfing, and hunting, not to mention the endless home improvement projects.

As a newly elected board member, I look forward to the many challenges that our organization will face over the next few years. I am inspired by the changes in the recent years with Beta Gamma Actives and Alumni and I will strive to keep up the positive relations between all members of the Beta Gamma chapter.

Beta Gamma Attends National Leadership Conference

Dear brothers and friends of Alpha Gamma Rho,



My name is **Nick Homan** and it is a great honor to be addressing you as the current Noble Ruler of Beta Gamma Chapter. These past few months in office have proven to me that Alpha Gamma Rho was one of the best decisions I made for my college career. Being Noble Ruler, it is easy to see and be familiar with all aspects of the fraternity. Beta

Gamma has experienced a great deal of forward and extremely positive movement in the past several months. We, as an active chapter, are ready to plunge into the next century with renewed courage and "Make Better Men" for our future as Beta Gamma.

Much of our encouragement has come from the recent visit to this years regional leadership conference held in Indianapolis, Indiana. Myself as well as the current officer team and Dr. Fred Oomens hopped in a van and drove for seven long hours to get there. Spending that much time with ten other gentlemen in that small of a space is a treat unto itself. All that aside the conference was a booming success for the chapters. This years conference was used slightly different than in past years. It was brought to our attention of the National Board of Directors at the past National convention in Fort Worth that the Brotherhood program needed to be examined. The leadership conferences this year were used to conduct the first fraternity wide evaluation of the Brotherhood program since its implementation in 1992. This years conference was designed to target the progress and the functioning of the program from chapter to chapter.

Most of the sessions at the conference were designed to get feedback from all chapters present on how they follow the "Rules" of recruitment, bid/initiation, and education processes. While in these sessions we found quite a bit of difference in the programs run by different chapters and ours. But within that realization we also discovered that Beta Gamma is at the forefront of an excellent program. There are areas for improvement, as with anything. Much of the time spent together as an officer team was devoted to improving and stream lining the current programs and also discussing the fact that we do follow all of the rules to our abilities, and that we as a chapter are setting an example for other chapters to look to.

One other note about this year's conference, this is the first conference in the past three which I have attended that the active chapter has been able to financially support their own way to the conference without asking the alumni chapter for financial help. This is partly due to the support of the alumni chapter on the issue of rent collection as well as a streamlined and updated financing program. The active chapter would like to thank the alumni for their support and we would also like to thank alumni member Gary Klug for attending yet one more leadership conference and showing his support in the active chapter and its leaders.



UW-Platteville Invites you to Grant County Farm Progress Days and a Picnic!

Who: Alumni, friends, faculty & staff
Cost: \$6.00/person, pay upon arrival.
When: Wednesday, July 14, 1999 from 4:00-7:00
Where: Memorial Park, Lancaster, WI

Menu: BBQ Beef Sandwiches,
Potato Salad, Baked Beans,
Coleslaw, Brownies, Beverages

UW-Platteville Alumni Association
Sponsored by Ag & Biology Alumni Chapter

No reservations needed. Just come for food and fun!

House & Grounds Facility Improvements

Submitted by Gregg Raupp

Chapter house improvements are funded by Alumni dues and gifts. Donate today and appreciate the improvements tomorrow.

1998 Completed \$19,000

1. Siding
2. Windows
3. Telephone/Computer Cable
4. Basement Stairwell Roof
5. Garage & Interior House Painting

1999 In Process \$11,000

1. Renovation of First Floor Bathroom \$10,000
2. Room 3A transitioned to Laundry \$500
3. Replacing Kitchen Ceiling \$500

2000 Planned \$14,000

1. New Asphalt Driveway \$10,000
2. Remodeling Men's Basement Bathroom \$2,000
3. Relandscape the Yard \$2,000
4. Replace Closet Doors \$1,000
5. Revent second Floor Bathroom Shower \$300

Engagement

Active Noble Ruler, Nick Homan, recently become engaged to his girlfriend, Jennifer Hass. Congratulations Nick and Jennifer.

Dear Alumni and Friends of Alpha Gamma Rho,



My name is **Gregg Wolf** and the time has come for me to write my graduation letter. It has seemed like a far off task when I first joined Beta Gamma and I couldn't wait until the task came near. But now that it is here, I wish that I could put it off just awhile longer. I have been part of Alpha Gamma Rho, Beta

Gamma Chapter, since 1995, joining the fall of my freshman year. School has been great and I have learned a great deal, but nothing can replace the experiences that I have had with Beta Gamma. I have held three offices: VNR Activities, VNR Recruitment, and Noble Ruler. I have also gone to two leadership conferences and one national convention. Those positions and responsibility have helped to make me the person I am today. I could never dream of meeting the people that I now know without Alpha Gamma Rho. Most important to me is that I have gained friendships that will last a life time and stories of these friendships will also last a life time. Beta Gamma has given me a home and kept me going throughout my college career, and for this I am thankful. But now I move onto a different chapter of my life, becoming a dreaded alumni, but I hope to be an active one none-the-less. One of the biggest things that I have learned by being an Alpha Gamma Rho member is to never let an opportunity get away from you and this is something that I will use for the rest of my life.

Thank You,

Gregory Wolf



Hello, my name is **Jeffrey J. Bode**. The four years that I have been a member of Alpha Gamma Rho will always be an unforgettable time in my life. I have experienced many things in college, some of which I wish to forget, but none that I regret. I have served as VNR-Membership Development for two years, and have par-

ticipated in homecoming, springfest, and other campus activities. Being a member of the Beta Gamma Chapter forced me to become a leader within the chapter and the School of Agriculture here at Platteville, all for which I am very grateful.

As I graduate with a Soil and Crop Science Degree, I plan to remain active in Alpha Gamma Rho through the Alumni Association and continued support of the active chapter. I joined this strong fraternity along with 16 other young men in the Fall of 1995, and I am leaving it with more strength than I have ever seen. Although I have not accepted any job offers at this time, the future looks bright. Thanks for all of the memories!



My name is **Brian Dinderman**. I will be graduating in May with an animal science-dairy emphasis degree. I transferred from Highland Community College after receiving my Associate of Science degree there. I joined AGR the first semester after coming to Platteville.

During my first two years as an AGR member I have gained many exciting opportunities. I have held the office of VNR-Scholarship last year and Ag. Council Representative this year. After graduating, I plan to go home and farm with my family. We currently milk about 45 head of registered Guernseys and farm about 90 acres. As an AGR member, I have had many great opportunities and life long memories that will always be carried with me.



Hello AGR, my name is **Tom Schuh**. I plan to graduate this May with an Agribusiness; Technology Engineering Degree which I will put to good use in Monroe, Wisconsin as a Supervision Trainee in the Truck Equipment Department for Monroe Truck Equipment.

I joined Alpha Gamma Rho the fall of 95 with the largest initiate class ever, Beta Zeta. Joining this organization has been rewarding from the beginning, and the decision to do so is one that I will never take back. Being part of AGR has opened up many opportunities and I have taken every one I could. Whether it is leadership or real life skills, I learned a share of both.

I have had the pleasure of serving as VNR Operations for the past two years, and was involved in a lot of house improvements such as residing and installing new windows in the house, repainting the interior of the house, building a new wall on first floor to comply with codes on fire exits, and receiving a rental license after passing the new more strict city code book.

I also would like to thank everyone who made my years in the house enjoyable. Luke was my first roommate and was definitely the most unpredictable. He always seemed to bring laughter to our room, and he helped me get through Spanish. Brian, "Dindy," got me hooked on the TV show Law and Order. I will always remember Dindy coming home from class and sitting on the "sleepy couch" only to fall asleep with his organic chemistry books open in his lap.

Life at the AGR house was the best I could have asked for during my college years, and I hope the younger guys will keep the tradition going for years to come.

Thanks and best wishes Beta Gamma!

Brother Tom G. Schuh

Hello, fellow brothers of Beta Gamma,



I, **Brother Gierach**, would like to thank Alpha Gamma Rho for providing me with a home away from home. Since I am from Sheboygan, WI, there were many weekends, especially in spring, which I stayed in Platteville. I have enjoyed all four years of college at UW-Platteville with my initiate class, Beta Zeta, and all the

brothers that were here before and after me. I joined AGR in the Fall of 1995, and have been active in the Fraternity from day one until the day I graduate. I look forward to becoming active in the Alumni Association, and providing assistance to the active chapter in the future when possible. I believe that I received a lot from the Fraternity, but I also believe that I gave the Fraternity back as much as I could. I started out in leadership roles with AGR as the Chaplain. Next, I was elected as VNR-Activities, in which I made sure that all the social activities were run smoothly. I led our chapter to a strong showing in Greek Week in the spring of 1997, and a 2nd place finish with our float in the fall. My last office in AGR, VNR-Finance, was my greatest challenge. I was elected in December 1997, and on my way out the door for Christmas, I was called back into the house to speak with an IRS representative. To fix this large mess up, Gregg Wolf and I spent the first half of the spring semester creating a new improved financial system for the house. After the smoke cleared, we managed to slip by paying the spring bills. By the end of the fall semester, we had managed to pass the books over to Steve Weber and Nick Homan with a balance over \$6000. Experience with the house finances along with my internship with Ritchie Motors in Cobb, WI have helped me interview with many large Agricultural companies as well as one fortune 500 company. I thank the Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity for everything and I look forward to the future. Thanks for everything AGR!!

Brother Luke Gierach



Hello, I am **Mark Pipkorn**. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Beta Gamma Chapter of Alpha Gamma Rho for all the great times I've had over the last four years. I am graduating this may and attending Vet School at UW-Madison this coming fall. My time at UWP has flown by and if I didn't have four more years of

school, I wouldn't be ready to leave yet. In my four years, I have seen many changes in this fraternity; many were for the better. I would also like to thank the two roommates I had in the house, Paul Zuelke and Tom Bruss for all the good times we've had. AGR truly has made me a better man.

Check out our New & Improved
Homepage on the Net!
<http://vms.www.uwplatt.edu/~agr/>
or e-mail us at
agr@uwplatt.edu

VonRueden Scholarship

As you may be aware, family, friends and people in the agricultural community felt a deep loss with the death of Bill VonRueden on November 1, 1998. Bill was a 1975 graduate of the University of Wisconsin, Platteville with an Agriculture Education degree. He was also a member of the Alpha Gamma Rho Ag Fraternity. Those who were fortunate to know Bill were aware of his keen sense of humor, enthusiasm and energy as well as his unwavering belief in the future of agriculture. Bill was a staunch advocate for the field of agriculture and showed such a passion for the agriculture industry that it left a permanent impression on the many people whose lives he touched.

To honor Bill's memory and his devotion to the field of agriculture, a William E. VonRueden endowed scholarship in Agriculture is being established at UW-Platteville. We feel this will be a fitting tribute to a man who devoted over 20 years of his life to this field.

This scholarship will be awarded annually to someone who has qualities similar to Bill's. We have specified that the recipients must be "hands-on" in their approach to agriculture and that, like Bill, they must be gregarious, outgoing, pragmatic persons who work hard toward achieving their objectives. Grades will *not* be a factor for this scholarship. This scholarship will be a reward for the recipient's hard work and will be future encouragement for them to continue to strive toward a degree in agriculture.

We invite you to participate in this memorial to Bill by contributing to the William E. VonRueden endowed scholarship in Agriculture. We have an initial goal of \$10,000 for the endowment for the scholarship. Thus your gift toward the scholarship—no matter what amount, large or small—will greatly assist in meeting this goal.

Your checks should be made out to the UW-Platteville Foundation for the William E. VonRueden Scholarship.

Thank you in advance for contributing to the William E. VonRueden endowed scholarship in Agriculture. Bill was so special to all of us and we know this scholarship will continue to honor Bill into the future through the annual recipients.

Sincerely,

Family and Friends of Bill VonRueden

MEMORIES from the PAST



Remember her, the original cook.



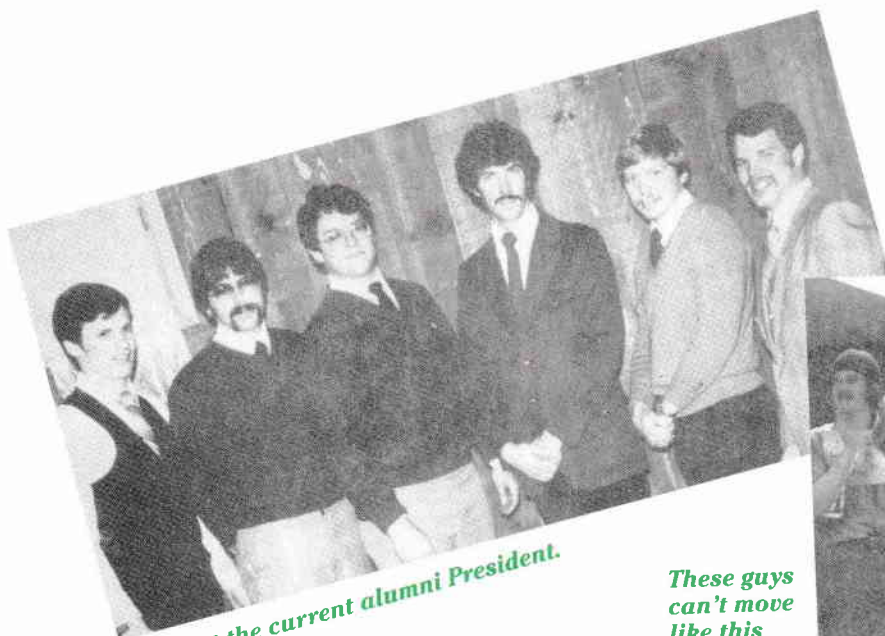
Wild Bill finally used his head...to put a hole in the wall.



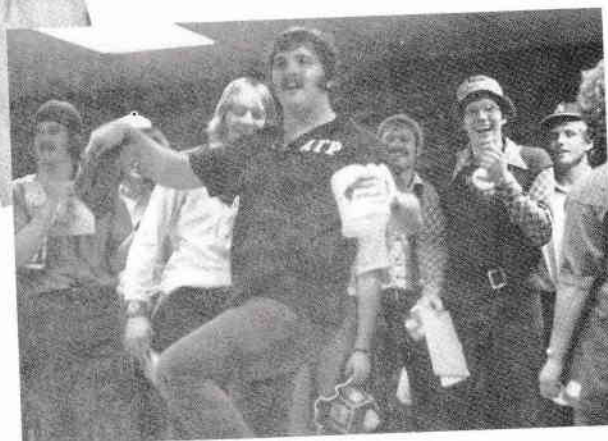
Look at these cool cats.



That has to be comfortable.



Pick out the current alumni President.



These guys can't move like this anymore.

New Initiate Introductions

Hello, I am **Ryan Gerlich** from Cuba City, WI. I have two sisters, Alissa 17 and Kristen 9. My mom, Linda, is an elementary school teacher, and my dad, Tom, is an employee of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. I am a freshman with a soil and crop science major.

I joined Alpha Gamma Rho last November just to join another organization, but now it's not just another club or organization. The people in AGR have done more for me than I thought possible. I thank you all for that.

My name is **Darin Strauss**. I am the son of Edward and Sandy Strauss. I grew up on a dairy farm in Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin. I am presently a sophomore pursuing a degree in Animal Science. One reason I joined Alpha Gamma Rho was to meet more people in the college of agriculture and to become more active on campus. Upon graduating from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville, I hope to go home and join the family dairy operation.

Hello, my name is **Wade Anding**. I intend to double major in Animal Science and Agribusiness. I am from a cash grain, beef farm in Arena, Wisconsin. The reason I joined Alpha Gamma Rho is because I felt that it could help me a lot academically. I really like the fact that a lot of the guys that are in AGR have had classes that I am in right now, so they can easily help me with my studies. I also believe that after I graduate the guys I have gotten to know through AGR will become valuable connections in my life.

My goals are to have a really successful career somewhere in the lines of agriculture, particularly Animal Science. I also won't rule out the possibility of going back to the farm and running it alongside my brother.

My name is **Tim Hoeft** from Huntley, Illinois. I am a freshman at University of Wisconsin-Platteville. I grew up in the country half way between Chicago and Rockford, Illinois. I am very involved in our family excavating business/farm. I was a ten-year member of 4-H in McHenry County, and presently serve as a board member on the Illinois 4-H Foundation. Some of the reasons I joined AGR include: To have a home away from home, meet new people that have the same interest that I do, create life long friendships, and to get involved with an agricultural organization on campus.

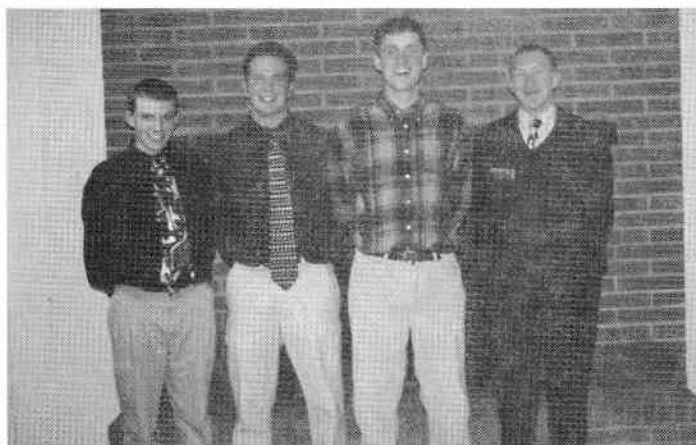
Beta Gamma goes on Winter Retreat



This year's winter retreat went well. It was held at Howard "AV" Roth's cabin. We arrived at the cabin about 5:00 and had a delicious spaghetti dinner prepared by VNR Provisions with the help of gourmet chef, Nick Homan.

After dinner we sat down and set numerous goals for the upcoming year. We have decided to fill out applications for national awards. We put together a committee of four to look over the applications and make sure they get sent in on time. We also set a goal to reach a 3.0 grade point average for the chapter by the end of the semester. Every member is required to study 4 hours a week and is encouraged to use the educational services that are available on campus. Membership Education goals were also set for the coming year. We feel that etiquette needs more emphasis in the education process. We also thought that an activities week would benefit the newest members. During this week, all of the out of house members stay at the house. There is an activity scheduled for each night. We also talked about different ideas for a ways and means project. One idea was to have a volleyball tournament this spring. This would work well with the volleyball pit out back. For a community service project, we are currently getting involved with a program called "Youth Empowerment Services" or YES. This program is designed to help disadvantaged youths by teaching them skills that they can use to help them get jobs. The new advisor issue was also brought up at the retreat. For those of you who do not know, our advisor, Dr. Oomens plans on retiring in a few years. He also plans on stepping down from the advisor position at that time. We decided that we should bring in a new advisor at least a year before Dr. Oomens retires.

After we set goals for the next year, we had a fireside chat. Each of us said how he would contribute to the chapter in the next year. The seniors told a few stories and it was a fun time.



**Spring Initiate Class 1999: From right to left
Ryan Gerlich, Darin Strauss, Wade Anding, Tim Hoeft**



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KANSAS CITY MO 64153-1366



Dear Brother,

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

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

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

Last Name, First Name _____

Stud Number: _____ Month/Year Grad. _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

Occupation: _____ Occupation Employer: _____

Business address: _____

Family: _____

Major: _____

Initiate Class: _____

Comments: _____
