

4/25/02



# Beta Gamma Crescent

Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity

Spring 2002

## From the Adviser's Desk



Why does it seem that the older you get the faster time flies by? Being an advisor to any large group has its rewards, challenges and major frustrations. I admire the dedication and integrity of those advisors that preceded me. Their devotion to the chapter remained strong throughout their tenure.

Recently, I had the opportunity to attend the 2002 AGR Leadership Conference in Kansas City with ten actives. Stuart Strangler, alumni board member, also experienced the van ride to K.C. Of course Gary Klug, alumni board secretary was also in attendance. This year's theme was "Men of Honor" and addressed the need for accountability by chapters and their membership. It emphasized that poor judgment could result in severe consequences as evidenced by the penalties imposed on some chapters in attendance for unpro-

fessional behavior. Although conference was well planned with some real excellent ideas to be tried in our chapter, I was extremely disappointed in the low attendance by alumni and advisors at the two-day event. Only three alumni were present for the entire conference for approximately 15 active chapters that participated. As Beta Gamma Alumni, you should be proud because two of those alumni were from our chapter. One of the major concerns by the national fraternity and voiced by many chapters was the declining traditional male enrollment. For many universities this results in fewer agriculture majors to recruit from and as a result they are recruiting members with non-agriculture majors. We are presently at 45 members that comprised about 18% of the male population in the School of Agriculture. The VNR-Recruitment, Jamie Williams has been busy recruiting some exceptional young men into the ranks of

AGR. This spring semester eight new members have been initiated.

The chapter is busy spring-cleaning the chapter house. Carpets are being cleaned and walls are being painted. Hopefully there was to be a good turnout for the thirtieth anniversary of Founder's Day and you found the house and surrounding property in excellent shape. Several projects have been initiated and completed over the past year: new tile was installed in the basement during Christmas break, new blacktop and sealer for the parking lot and the landscape project that was completed last fall.

One of the programs we would like the alumni to get involved with is as an officer mentor. We know that many alumni have held officer positions in the chapter in the past. We would like some of you to step forward and volunteer to work with the current active

*Continued on next page*

*"If you are planning for one year, grow rice.  
If you are planning for 20 years, grow trees.  
If you are planning for centuries, grow men."*

—Chinese Proverb

### Crescent Publishing Service

This issue of the *Beta Gamma Crescent* was published through the Crescent Publishing Service (CPS). This is a special project of the AGR Home Office to assist chapters in improving communications with alumni.

Chapters pay a small fee for the service, below the actual production cost, to encourage regular contact. This project is made possible by donations from alumni like you. Please consider contributing using the enclosed card.

# From the Adviser's Desk

Continued from front page

officer in the position you once held. This would be beneficial to both the active chapter and the alumni. In addition, any alumni who would like to speak about their experiences as an AGR or present a mini-professional presentation are welcomed at any time. Recently, Scott Laufenberg put on an interview clinic for the active members. His insights and perspectives as an employer searching

for that outstanding employee were very helpful to all who attended. We appreciated Scott's willingness to sacrifice an evening away from family in order to provide some real good tips on interviewing.

This fall Agriculture celebrates its Diamond Jubilee. It has been 75 years since the first agriculture degree was awarded on the WUP campus. Homecoming 2002 will

have special meaning for agriculture this year. Numerous activities are being planned to recognize agriculture's contributions to the campus. I am sure that the Beta Gamma active chapter and alumni board will have activities planned during Homecoming for the alumni. So, mark October 5, 2002 on your calendars and be ready to celebrate Agriculture's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary with your brothers.

---

## Noble Ruler's Report



Once again, it is my privilege as Noble Ruler to inform you of all the latest news and plans from 845 W.

Madison St. and the UWP campus. There

is so much to tell you that I don't know where to begin!

Over semester break, a major project was undertaken in replacing the basement's tile floor. The cove base trim was recently put on marking completion of the project.

Many thanks are in order to our alumni and the all the actives that provided labor. The new floor looks great and is a major improvement to our house! Future improvement plans include renovation of the basement bathrooms and laundry room.

In February, ten actives, two alumni, and our advisor Dr. Mee traveled to Kansas City for Regional Leadership Convention. It was a good experience for all of us as we attended workshops, set goals, and shared experiences with other AGR's. One of the highlights was a tour of the home office. The

National Convention will be held August 11-14 in Minneapolis this year. I strongly encourage anyone interested to look into attending.

The first weekend in March, we had our annual spring retreat. Because of the size of our group we decided to stay at the house in Platteville. Overall, everyone thought it was a fun weekend and we got a lot accomplished. It was really great to see the new initiates contributing their thoughts and ideas to the group.

Speaking of new initiates, our VNR-Recruitment Jamie Williams has done an outstanding job this semester. This spring we have initiated eight outstanding men and we are expecting a few more before all is said and done.

Currently, we are busy preparing for our thirtieth anniversary founder's day. We are working very hard to get the house in tip-top shape for all of our alumni and their families to visit.

This year also has produced some changes on campus. The new

student and technology center will open in April and everyone is pretty excited. Along with that, Ullrich Hall is scheduled to undergo renovation beginning this summer and will be the future home of the computer science and business departments. Another change in the works is the likely addition of a Sigma Alpha Chapter. Sigma Alpha is a sister organization to Alpha Gamma Rho that provides young women with the same experience and professional ties as AGR does to its members.

As I sit here typing this, spring break is just two days away and will provide a much-needed vacation from school and activities for all of us here. As usual, everyone is very involved on campus and in the School of Ag as Alpha Gamma Rho continues to be a very active and influential organization here at UWP.

Fraternally,

Joseph M. Porior  
Noble Ruler



## New Members



*Front row (left to right) Kyle Vesperman, Eric Galdi, Mike Hanson, Jonathon Wooleve  
Back row (left to right) Robert Sjoerdsma, Timothy Pierce, Andrew McCutchen, Carl Ward*

### **Robert Jon Sjoerdsma**

Hello everyone. My name is Robert Jon Sjoerdsma, stud number 565. My parents are Dave and Sharon Sjoerdsma. I have resided my entire life in Randolph, WI. My mother is a RN at a doctor's office in Randolph and my dad owns a construction company, which I have worked for every summer ever since I can remember. During the school year and a little in the summer I have worked for a dairy and cash grain farmer by Randolph for the last six years. I am currently in the second semester of my freshman year at UWP and have enjoyed it thus far. I am also an active member in the Pioneer Dairy Club. I joined AGR because all of the members that I have made friends with before joining seemed to be outstanding people, including the advisor. I was very impressed with the ideals that they stood for and wanted to be a part of it myself. I also like the aspect of being able to have a large group of men to share a passion for agriculture. My hope is to be able to live up to the Alpha Gamma Rho name and become a better person because of my involvement with the organization.

### **Andrew James McCutchen**

Hello, my name is Andrew James McCutchen. My stud number is 566. My parents are Arden McCutchen and Laurie Burt. My hometown is Galesville, Wisconsin where I worked on a 250 head dairy farm all through high school and helped my uncle and grandfather on their beef and swine farm ever since I can remember. I was active in 4-H and FFA for which I have shown many animals at the county fair. I am currently a freshman at UW-Platteville majoring in Agriculture Business with an Engineering emphasis. I decided to join this fraternity because everyone involved is in the field of agriculture and I hope to learn more and better myself in the agriculture field. I enjoy hanging out at the house and meeting new people and hope to make some new friends throughout the next few years. Also, Alpha Gamma Rho will help me get more involved in the community and the world around me.

### **Timothy Johnson Pierce**

Hello gentlemen, my name is Timothy Johnson Pierce. My stud number is 568. My parents are Tom and Caye Pierce who reside in Sun Prairie, WI,

which is also my hometown. I come from the city but I do have a farm background. My uncle operates a 100-cow dairy in western MN. I have worked summers out there since I can remember. I am a freshman here at Platteville with a major in Animal Science-Dairy emphasis. I joined AGR to gain lifelong friends, along with improving my academic performance. The quality that impressed me the most was the honest, hard working attitude that everyone else has. I hope I can continue to pass this characteristic on to future members.

### **Carl David Ward**

Hello, my name is Carl David Ward and my stud number is 564. My dad's name is Brent Ward and my step-mom is Carrie Ward. I am originally from California, and have lived in Wisconsin for about six years. My parents are currently living in Columbus, Wisconsin. I worked through high school on a 160-cow dairy farm, and that job is what really sparked my interest for Agriculture. I joined AGR because most of the guys have the same values as me, and have come from similar backgrounds.

### **Kyle John Vesperman**

Hello my name is Kyle John Vesperman. My stud number is 567. My parents are Bruce and Judy Vesperman and my hometown is Lancaster, Wisconsin. Growing up I had experience raising a variety of animals and different vegetable crops. Currently we raise soybeans and seed corn on a 50/50 rotation. I am a freshman at UW Platteville majoring in Ornamental Horticulture. I joined AGR to meet other guys that have similar goals and interests in agriculture.

# Graduating Seniors

## *Timothy J. Hoeft*



Hello Brothers, I would like to start by saying that the last 4 years of my life as an AGR has been some of the best experiences of my life. I am graduating in May with a degree in Agricultural Business with an emphasis in Ag. Engineering Technology. I have a job with TJH Contracting Inc. in Huntley, IL. I will be responsible for concrete flat work and will be involved with the soil and water conservation work that we do. Through AGR I have gained lifelong friendships, with duties I could not easily avoid and with definite privileges I could purchase on no other terms. I was initiated on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 1999, and I knew when I heard those words come out of Dr. Fred Oomens mouth I was in for the ride of my life for the next 4 years. We have definitely had our high times in the house and then our not so high times as well. The one thing that I will always remember is how everyone pulled together to get things done that no one really wanted to do but we knew we had to get 'er done. So we got together and just did it. There have been numerous experiences that I will never forget. I attended 2 leadership conventions where we gained leadership skills among many other skills. We have had workshops on resume writing and interviewing skills, just to name a few of the ways that AGR has helped me professionally. We have been known to work hard but play a little harder from time to time... One of the best weekends of my college career was when we went to the ISU Mud Volleyball tournament. BP, Preston, Jeff, BT, Williams, Joe, Ambort, Sheahan, Liestico, and myself piled into two cars and drove to ISU in Bloomington, Illinois. The whole weekend was pretty much a blur; we didn't do so well playing vol-

leyball but had fun trying. BP almost got his ass handed to him by someone twice his size after he threw an ear of corn at this guy. Another weekend John Reilly, Matt Krahn, Jeff Hodge, and myself went up to River Falls to the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Back to Jamaica Party. That was completely out of control and I think Reilly is still recovering from that event. These are just a few of the wonderful "social" experiences I have experienced as an AGR member. I would like to thank my roommates over the years: Sean Timm, David Heimerdinger, Preston Vincent, Jeff Adams, Ryan Culver and Peter B. Morehardt for putting up with me and all the experiences we have been through together. It has truly been great and I wouldn't trade these last 4 years as an AGR for anything. Through this great organization I have met and continue to meet great people, it has truly been a great experience. Keep getting 'er done! Go AGR!!!

## *Eric Staudinger*



My name is Eric Staudinger and I am graduating on May 11, 2002. I have enjoyed my years here in school and in AGR. I will continue working in the nutrition industry, most likely in Wisconsin. During four years of school I have earned a BS in Animal Science with a minor in Ag-Business. My involvement in AGR has brought me many new friends, acquaintances, and most importantly, professionalism. Activities such as national convention, workshops, and socials, have taught me many things about the dairy industry in which I will have connections the rest of my life. There are many life lessons to be learned during the years of school, and my membership in Alpha Gamma Rho has made them much more meaningful to myself.

## *James M. Krueger II*



I was initiated as a junior in January of 2001 in the pledge class of Beta Rho. As an agriculture student here at UW-Platteville I was very aware of the positive presence that Alpha Gamma Rho had on our campus. My first exposure as a freshman was to visit the AGR house for a School of Agriculture event. The members that spent time with me to talk about being new to college, the purpose of the fraternity, and to show me around the house impressed me. Though members visited me on a semester basis, I was unable to join for other reasons until the spring of 2001 as #551.

Since then I have been an active member and am currently serving on the community service committee. Over our winter break of 2001-02 I traveled to Mississippi with other AGR members to work on houses for financially challenged people with Habitat for Humanity. We were able to see the difference we were making for the people that lived down there by giving them a chance to live in proper housing.

I was born and raised on a dairy farm on the ridges of Hillsboro, WI. This exposure to agriculture led the way once I decided to attend UW-Platteville after high school. I am thrilled to be graduating in May of 2002 with two BS degrees in Agri-Business as well as Business Administration-Financing. After graduation I will be joining several other Alpha Gamma Rho alumni as an account officer at Farm Credit Services. I am grateful for the professionalism and friends of my time at AGR and only wish I could have joined sooner.



### Ryan Gerlich



Hello brothers of Alpha Gamma Rho. My name is Ryan Gerlich, student number 520. I will graduate in May with a degree in Soil and Crop

Science. I was initiated during my freshman year on a dark November evening in 1998. My college years, nor my life, could ever be the same again. I entered the AGR house as a poor, blind neophyte and left that autumn night an AGR member for life.

Since being at Platteville, I have been a member of numerous organizations, such as Ag Council, FFA, GAMMA, Vice President of the Agronomy/Soil Water Conservation Society, and a 4 year member of the Collegiate Soil Judging Team, which culminated by being a member of the 2000 National

Championship Team - an unforgettable experience.

In Alpha Gamma Rho I have served as a representative to a few other organizations, held the position of Chaplain, VNR-Activities, and am at present a member of the Judicial Committee and Sweetheart Coordinator.

Recently I was chatting with the first person I met at UWP. She and I were discussing the past four years, what we learned, what we will take with us, and what have been some of our most meaningful experiences. We agreed that the most important thing gained in college was the friendships. When I came to college I had goals, one of them being to meet as many people as possible. I had no idea that such a little aspiration would take me to such great places and make me a better

person. I'm convinced that each person we meet changes us in sometimes a little and sometimes a big way. The person I have become is because of the people I have met, the mistakes I have learned from, and the self-development I have gained through my membership in this premier fraternity.

I want to thank my big brother Brian Paul for teaching me about myself, showing me around my first years, and being an unforgettable individual. Tom Bruss and Mark Pipkorn - thanks for all the Seinfelds and SNLs. Thank you Erin Mullen for being someone to talk to and thank you Brad Revert for all the never ending laughs on Saturday mornings. Lastly, I want to thank all active Spring 2002 members of Alpha Gamma Rho for making my senior year the best, and so far the most unforgettable time. Adios, I'm outta here.

## Alumni Update

❖ **Mathew McCourt** #439 is now a dairy farmer living near Fond du Lac Wisconsin. He is married and has three children

❖ **Tyrone Larson** # 449 is a district conservationist for the Stevens Point area. He is married and has one son

❖ **Jeff Parks** #268 now lives in Ludington Michigan. He is married to Heather and have two children. He now works for a credit union but was a banker for 16 years.

❖ **Robert Schwoerer** # 291 lives in Valders Wisconsin. He is married and has two children. Robert works for Country Wide Mortgage Company in the home lone department.

❖ **Taylor Weisenel** # 306 is married with two children. He works for Ag Bag International as a territory sales manager and lives in Little Suamico Wisconsin. Taylor says "AGR is a great way of living during college life, and I still talk to a lot of my college friends".

## House Report

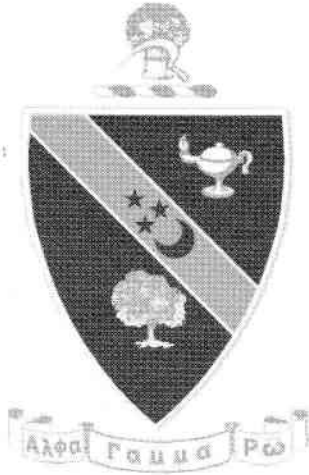
Over winter break new floor tiles and baseboards were installed in the basement of the AGR house. As many of you know, the old tiles were faded and mismatched due to years of heavy use. Work began the last few days of finals week in December as about six actives pitched in to remove the old floor tiles and baseboard. The floor was then swept and any further debris removed to provide an adequate base of the new tiles. After the first of the year we began to install the new tiles with the assistance of a professional carpenter and some alumni members. The new floor has a much greater shine and the letters are slightly larger to produce a more professional look. In addition, nine new round tables were purchased along with chairs to better preserve this investment. This is yet another step in the commitment that the alumni has made in improving the UW-Platteville AGR house. Thank you for your continued support.

# Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity

10101 North Ambassador Drive  
Kansas City, MO 64153-1395

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



## Beta Gamma Chapter Crescent

### AGR New Member Recommendation

In the spaces provided below, please list the names of prospective new members in your community or area who might attend the University of Wisconsin. It would be helpful to tell them about your experiences in AGR. Let them know you are enthusiastic about the Fraternity. Remind them we are a social/professional fraternity, stressing agriculture, scholarship, leadership, and a well-rounded program of campus and community activities, intramural sports, etc. Your efforts on this background information will help strengthen our new member program.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ AGR Relatives \_\_\_\_\_  
High School Activities \_\_\_\_\_  
Curriculum \_\_\_\_\_ Have you discussed joining with him? \_\_\_\_\_  
Recommended by \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to : VNR Recruitment  
Alpha Gamma Rho - Beta Gamma Chapter  
845 W Madison Street  
Platteville, WI 53818