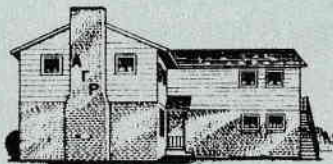
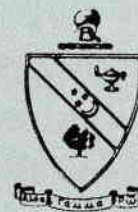


6/9/2003



BETA GAMMA CHAPTER Crescent



Spring 2003

ALPHA GAMMA RHO
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-PLATTEVILLE

NO. 81

Advisor Report



I saw my first robin today at 845 West Madison. Spring must be here!! A lot of activity has occurred over this past winter at the chapter house. The kitchen had an updated facelift. New counter tops were installed along with refinishing the cabinets. The kitchen now has a real

twenty-first century look. In addition, the basement restrooms were revamped and the cramped utility room was enlarged. This has made quite a difference by making these areas more efficient and spacious. I encourage each of you to stop by and look at these improvements. Thank you for your continued support of the chapter and its facilities.

In early March, I had the distinct pleasure of attending the annual AGR leadership conference in Indianapolis with thirteen of the chapter's finest. This year's theme was "Men of Integrity". The alumni can be very proud of our chapter because it certainly has men of integrity in its ranks. These young men returned from the conference with great ideas and are excited about implementing some of them in the chapter. It was also great to have Mike Grulke attend the conference as an AGR board member and alumnus. Few advisors and alumni take advantage of the great program put on by the National AGR office at these conferences. It is a very eye opening experience and it is good to know that our chapter is not experiencing most of the problems other chapters in the nation are observing. I wish every active and alumni could attend at least one leadership conference sometime during their career.

I would also like to update you on the search for a new director for the School of Agriculture. As you recall, I have been working with the Dean this past year assisting him with a portion of the director duties. This past semester we had three very qualified candidates that were interviewed on campus. However; due to budgetary constraints, we had to cancel the search without naming a director from one of these candidates. As a result of that cancelled search, Dr. Mark Zidon who is a professor of Ag Ed has been recommended to serve as the next School of Agriculture director. The entire staff in the School of Agriculture supports Mark as he undertakes such an important position beginning in early summer.

As I mentioned earlier, budget issues are certainly impacting the School of Agriculture and UW-Platteville. Although the UW-System encompasses only eight per cent of the state budget in Wisconsin, the governor's pro-

posed budget would require a 38% cut from UW-System's base budget allocation. At UWP this amounts to about a two million dollar cut to our base allocation that will need to be returned to the state. Campus administrators and faculty have been very busy trying to come up with a plan to account for this reduction. It basically involves not filling open positions due to retirements or positions already open that will not be filled. We have to remember that this is a proposal. It still has to get legislative approval which means the cuts could be smaller or greater than that already proposed. Only time will tell what direction the budget will take. In either case the state budget issue will have tremendous affect on higher education in the state of Wisconsin.

The chapter had some challenges this spring semester attracting new members. However, we were fortunate to attract one very qualified young man, Jeff Klever. He has certainly been an inspiration to the chapter. He is a great person who has over come adversity and accepted his disability. Our chapter can learn a lot from Jeff's drive to succeed and his integrity. We are pleased that he has joined the ranks of AGR.

Although the recruitment officer and fraternity visited with over 15 perspectives, cost was their greatest anxiety issue. I am hoping that as alumni you could send the chapter any names of potential members. We will undertake a very aggressive summer recruitment project this year. The chapter will have to continue to work hard to increase membership this fall and next spring. Roughly, one half of the current membership will graduate in May and December of this year.

Finally you are welcome to stop by and visit the actives at the chapter house or the School of Agriculture any time. Many new and exciting projects are being initiated at the university farm. A new Agricultural Technology Center is being built as well as a new swine center. I will be looking forward to visiting with you in the near future or Homecoming next October.

Faternally, Doc Mee

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- Development of Sigma Alpha at UWP

Alumni Corner

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VNR-Alumni Relations

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Platteville, WI 53818
608-348-6470
608-732-5828 cell
woolevej@uwplatt.edu

Lost Alumni...

Communication between Alumni and Undergraduates is crucial for a successful chapter. Our records show that we do not currently have the correct contact information for the following Alumni members:

Troy Wallace

Thomas Pederson

If you have any information for these members, or may know how to get in contact with them, please relay that information to Jon Woolever, VNR-Alumni Relations or Randy Braker, Alumni President.

--- clip and save ---

CONTACT US:

Alpha Gamma
Rho-Beta Gamma
845 W. Madison St.
Platteville, WI 53818
(608) 348-6470
www.uwplatt.edu/~agr

Vision Statement

To be the premier fraternity that emulates professionalism, integrity, and leadership by building strong bonds of brotherhood among men in the agricultural community.

If you have any address changes or would like to be featured in our "Spotlight on Alumni", please email Jon Woolever, VNR-Alumni Relations at woolevej@uwplatt.edu or give us a call. You may also fill out and return the back cover of the Crescent. Also, if you have any pictures you would like to send to us we would be happy to include them in the next Crescent.

Beta Gamma Alumni Develop Strategic Plan



On April 4th and 5th, the Alumni Board and a number of undergraduates attended a Strategic Planning Session at the UWP Student Center. Zane Akins, past Grand National President, was the facilitator and worked with the members in attendance to create a long-range set of goals for our chapter. After the goals were set, detailed action plans were developed that outlined the specific actions that will be taken to achieve our goals. These strategic planning sessions are an initiative started by the national organization one year ago meant to coin-

cide with the 100th anniversary of Alpha Gamma Rho. These plans will guide our organization into the next century of existence. All those in attendance are grateful for the assistance provided by Brother Akins and look forward to the increased success of our Alumni and Undergraduate chapters. Below you will find our new vision statement and the goal statement that was created for each of the five main topic areas.

If you would like a detailed copy of the goals and action plans that were created, feel free to contact Randy Braker, Alumni Board President or Jon Woolever, VNR-Alumni Relations. Contact information for these individuals can be found in the "Alumni Board Contact Info" section of this Crescent.

Noble Ruler's Report...



The Beta Gamma chapter is undergoing some major changes. Our first problem is we are in the need of a lawn mower. Serious consideration went into investing into a pair of llamas. We are still investigating other options.

On a more serious note this spring we have an entirely new officer team with no holdovers from last year. This has presented many challenges for the current team. I feel that these challenges have made our team better and help our overall chapter become better. Another challenge is that we are graduating 12 members this spring. By the following spring another 6 will be graduating. This is a huge obstacle to overcome but I am positive that our chapter will step up and recruit a large number of highly qualified men this coming fall.

Our chapter has been very active this year. We have done community service events such as helping the Platteville Jaycees with their haunted house. We have also raised money to donate to various charities such as Relay for Life, the Veterans Association, Holiday Drive, & Toys for Tots among others. Helping local elderly with housework and other small tasks continues to be one of our biggest service projects.

Our chapter has also been doing very well academically. We continue to hold the high cumulative GPA of all fraternities on campus. We pride ourselves heavily on our academics and this comes largely from recruiting quality men into our membership and continually striving to become better men.

Our chapter is also very active on campus and in the School of Agriculture. Our members hold at least one office in every agricultural club including Presidents in NAMA, Dairy Club, Ag Council, Reclamation Club, and Ag Mech Club. We also have two members, including myself, that are on the Pioneer football team. Undergraduate brothers are also members of numerous campus organizations such as student government, music groups, and honors groups. Through all the activities that the Beta Gamma chapter is involved with, we are striving towards Alpha Gamma Rho's goal "to make better men."

Lawnmower Needed!!!

It's a tragic day at 845 W. Madison, the Cubby is dead. For those of you who remember our faithful lawnmower, it has finally passed into junk heaven. After three extensive rebuilds and thousands of dollars in repair bills we have decided that our current lawnmower is not worth repairing. Therefore, we are asking that if any alumni have a large garden tractor that they are thinking about replacing to consider donating their old mower to Beta Gamma. We are looking for a mower that has about a 54" deck, solid body, and runs well or can EASILY be made to run well. If you have a machine that you would consider donating, or know where one could be found, please call Jon Woolever at (608) 732-5828 and we will get in contact with you. Thank you for any help you may be able to provide!

New Alumni Board Members

At Founder's Day elections were held and 2 new board members were seated. The board's newest members are Jim Hollenberger and Pat Crombie. Jim will be serving as the Undergraduate Chapter Committee Chair and Pat is taking on the job of chairing the Alumni Functions Committee. We are all very happy that these two brothers stepped up into leadership positions within the Alumni organization and look forward to working with them in the future. We know they will make our association even more successful! Feel free to contact them with any questions, comments, or concerns.

New Initiate

Beta Gamma is proud to introduce our newest initiate, Jeffrey Klever. Jeff is a senior majoring in Ag Business with plans to graduate in December. Jeff is from Freeport, IL and is originally from a dairy farm. Jeffrey is a great addition to our chapter and brings a totally new perspective to our lives. Jeff is an inspiration to everyone as we see how well he has dealt with being diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. After graduation Jeff plans to work in the agri-business sector and possibly for Agri-Bility.

Pioneer Farm is Growing...

Just like the crops in spring time the Pioneer Farm is growing and new buildings are sprouting up all over the place! Currently there are 3 projects underway at the farm. The biggest project is the Agriculture Learning Technology Center, which is currently under construction. This facility will house office space, meeting classrooms, and facilities to hold distance education and online courses. Building will start soon for the Ag Education Living and Learning Center, which will provide housing for 24 people along with kitchen and meeting rooms. This will be a great place for visiting students, farmers, and scientists to live while attending seminars, retreats, workshops, and doing research. Ground was broken for our new swine center on April 7th. This state of the art facility will be the first of its kind in the state of Wisconsin. It will be a high-rise farrow to finish operation utilizing manure composting and a walk-in demonstration and viewing area to display the building design, technology and management methods being applied. Further information and pictures can be found at the Pioneer Farm website: www.uwplatt.edu/~pioneerfarm.

Homecoming... just around the corner

This year that corner might just be on Bourbon Street because the 2003 UWP Homecoming theme is...MARDI GRAS! Festivities will begin on Oct. 5 and will culminate with the parade and football game on Sat. October 11, 2003. All alumni are welcome to come and spend one or more days back at 845 W. Madison and relive those fond memories of Homecoming, friends, fraternity, and socializing.

Calling all AGR's

In an effort to bring alumni and undergraduates together, plans are being made to have a summer outing. But we need ideas! We would like to have an activity that can provide entertainment for alumni, undergrads, and their families. Ideally, it would be centrally located within the state. Possible ideas so far are a canoe trip, day at a county fair, picnic, and golf outing. If you have an idea for a fun event or a possible location to hold an activity, please call Jon Woolever, VNR-Alumni Relations at (608) 732-5828 or email him at woolevej@uwplatt.edu

You're Invited!

Alumni are invited to stop by the AGR house anytime to meet the undergraduate brothers, see the house, network, and just have a great time. If you are ever in the area feel free to just stop on by and get to know the great undergrad members we have. We really are "making better men" and would love to show them off! Please also take a moment to view the many new renovations and house improvements that have continued to make 845 W. Madison the premier housing choice on campus. If you prefer to have some brothers waiting to meet you and give you a formal tour, feel free to call the house and we'll be happy to arrange something. We are also able to give you tours of campus, Russell Hall, the Pioneer Farm, and our new Student Center.

AGR on the Web!

That's right folks! Beta Gamma has our own website and we encourage each of you to take some time (maybe even at work!) to visit our web page and see what we have been doing. Our web address is www.uwplatt.edu/~agr. We have pictures of past events, information on all the brothers, important agricultural links, and most recently, an online alumni directory. We are currently exploring the feasibility of having our website hosted outside of the University domain in order to offer our brothers even more options and increase the amount of contact between alumni and undergraduates. Feel free to drop us a line with your suggestions for website improvements and things you would like to see.

Announcements

Here are a few updates on the happenings in the lives of our brothers. Congratulations to all those with new families, new spouses, or new careers. More prime examples of the great leaders Alpha Gamma Rho creates!

David and Erin Fischer (Beta Alpha pledge class) were blessed with a baby boy, Samuel David. Samuel was born on Feb. 23, 2003 and weighed 7 lbs., 10 oz.

Dave Krutza was just appointed to the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection Board by Governor Doyle.

Founder's Day 2003

On April 5, 2003 approximately 20 brothers came "home" to 845 W. Madison Street for another great Founder's Day. Thank you to those of you who participated in the annual meeting and helped direct our alumni organization for the past year. Although the weather was not overly inviting, the socializing and brotherhood definitely made up for it. The annual meeting was followed by a wonderful catered meal of roast beef and chicken. A social hour(s) followed, in which alumni and undergraduates got a chance to bond with one another. Many great stories were told and everyone learned a great deal about the brotherhood, leadership, and fun that makes AGR such a great fraternity. Zane Akins, facilitator for the strategic planning session, was our guest for the day and was enthralled with our stories.

Blaska Family Opens Golf Course

The Blaska family is proud to announce the June opening of The Oaks Golf Course. The project was envisioned by Greg Blaska, developed by General Manager and President John Blaska (5), Vice President Jeff Blaska (48) and the rest of the immediate family. J. Michael Blaska (23) and David Ward (85) offered assistance through the political channels.

The facility is designed for the 'total golf experience'. A championship designed, wonderfully constructed, beautifully maintained golf course greets both beginners and veterans. When you finish your round, enjoy some well-spent time in our comfortable clubhouse—complete with bar, grill and deck overlooking eleven holes.

Please visit our website (www.GolftheOaks.com) to preview The Oaks Golf Course layout and to register for a free round of golf

Brothers of the Century

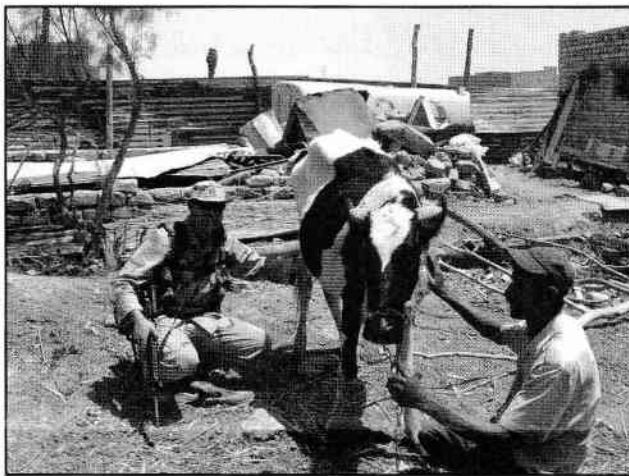
In celebration of AGR's 100th anniversary, National AGR has developed a program to honor the most outstanding brothers of Alpha Gamma Rho. The "Brother of the Century" Program allows each chapter to nominate a number of brothers based upon their membership. The nominees represent the highest principles, ideas, and values as stated in the Alpha Gamma Rho ritual. They are leaders in our communities and our industry, may be living or dead, and serve as a role model for our youth. Beta Gamma has elected to nominate the following brothers for this honor:

Dr. Robert Campbell
Dr. Oomens
Dr. Loberger
Mike Myers

These brothers will be recognized at the 2004 National Centennial Convention in Columbus, Ohio. National AGR will publish profiles of each Brother of the Century in a future issue of the Sickle and Sheaf.

Military News

Currently two undergraduate brothers of Beta Gamma are serving our country in the military. **John Reilly** is a Corporal in the United States Marine Corps and is stationed at an undisclosed location in the Middle East. John is a truck driver and is currently working at a fueling station. **Dale Linder** is stationed in northern Iraq where his unit will assist in the rebuilding effort. Dale is a combat engineer and his unit specializes in road building. **Erik Olson**, a Beta Gamma Alumnus, was called to active duty and stationed at Fort Bragg earlier this year. He was then deployed with the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit. Erik works in the area of military intelligence. We are very proud of the sacrifices these men are making and our prayers continue to be with them and all our armed forces.



Sigma Alpha...UWP's Newest Sorority



The women of UWP's School of Agriculture have another opportunity to develop their professionalism, leadership, and fellowship. In the fall of 2002, a large group of interested women founded a Sorority in Development chapter of Sigma Alpha, a national agricultural sorority. Sigma Alpha is an un-official "sister" organization to Alpha Gamma Rho and we hold ourselves to a very similar set of aims and purposes. They are dedicated to leadership on campus and in their communities and support Ag in the Classroom as their national service project. Currently there are more than 60 chapters nation-

wide and the UW-Platteville group has over 20 founding members. They will be a great addition to the School of Agriculture, our campus, and the community as a whole. This is a great set of women and we look forward to seeing great things in the near future! If you have any questions about Sigma Alpha or may know of a prospective member you can contact them at: gernerm@uwplatt.edu.

Facility

Goal - To have the preferred housing choice for members which can expand and comfortably accommodate up to 30 men and a house mother, while remaining cost effective and attractive.

Recruitment

Goal - Recruit actively to maintain at least 50 quality men by utilizing all campus, alumni, & fraternal resources.

Brotherhood

Goal - To develop our membership from initiation throughout their lives by providing opportunities for brotherhood, including leadership, personal growth, and group interaction to achieve our vision of excellence.

Communication

Goal - To develop channels of communication that enables our brothers to effectively relay information, address challenges, identify opportunities, and enhance our common bond of Alpha Gamma Rho.

Financial

Goal - Remain fiscally viable in order to meet our obligations while setting up financial mechanisms to achieve future goals.

Check out our New & Improved
Homepage on the Net!

<http://www.uwplatt.edu/~agr/>

or e-mail us at
agr@uwplatt.edu

Loberger Scholarship

Each year Richard Loberger awards one \$500 scholarship to an undergraduate brother of Beta Gamma. This student must be a sophomore or junior, a member of Beta Gamma AGR, have a minimum GPA of 3.0, and be active on fraternity committees with a leadership role. The Loberger family is proud to announce that this year's recipient is Jonathon Woolever. Woolever is a sophomore majoring in Animal Science and Political Science with emphasis in agri-business. Jon currently serves as VNR-Alumni Relations and is a member of Collegiate FFA, Block and Bridle and Student Ambassadors.

Leadership Awards

Jeff Klever and Ty Martin represented Beta Gamma at the university's recent Leadership Awards Night. At this event, various campus wide awards, such as Super Senior Awards, Dean Linden Award, the Chancellor's Medallion, and others are given out to students who show outstanding leadership, character, community involvement, and dedication to UWP. Brother Klever was nominated for the Alumni Foundation's Excellence in Leadership Award, which recognizes non-graduating students for outstanding leadership and involvement. Brother Martin received the Super Senior Award and the prestigious Chancellor's Medallion. Martin was one of only five students to win the Chancellor's Medallion this year. This award is given to graduating seniors for outstanding campus leadership. Congratulations to these fine brothers and all those who received awards!

REMEMBER THIS???

Hope these pictures bring back some great memories of Alpha Gamma Rho! If anyone has any stories to share regarding these pictures feel free to contact Jon Woolever and they will be put in the next Crescent.



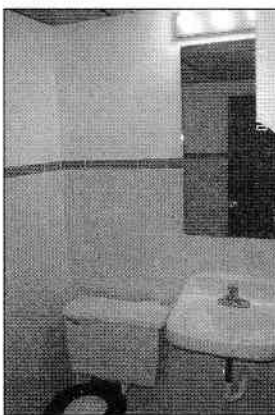
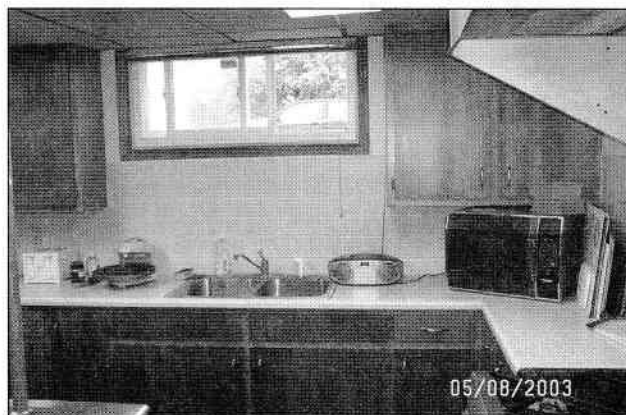
House gets a facelift



This past winter there have been many improvements to our house. The biggest change occurred in the basement and involved the laundry/boiler room and the bigger bathroom. A wall was knocked out and the “stinky, unused” shower and urinal were removed and a new wall was built making a smaller bathroom. This allowed us to expand the laundry room and turn it into more of a mudroom for all the brothers who work at local farms. There is more



room for clothes, boots, and tools as well as keeping the boiler area free from debris. A mop sink was added as well as some new shelving making the room nice and tidy. The bathroom then received new wall and floor tiles and looks 1000% better. Because this project came in WAY under budget it was decided to continue the work into the kitchen. The kitchen received new wall tile, all new countertops, and a new 2-section sink. Brother Dale Linder then refinished all the cabinets and replaced the aging hardware. All of this and we were still under



budget by \$3,000! The final improvement was arranged by Noble Ruler Matt Lee who secured some very professional ceiling tiles for almost nothing. The entire basement has new fireproof, acoustical ceiling tile. Thanks goes out to all those who were involved in all the improvements to the chapter home!

The purpose of Alpha Gamma Rho is to make better men, and through them a broader and better agriculture by surrounding our members with influences tending to encourage individual endeavor, resourcefulness and aggressive effort along lines making for the development of better mental, social, moral, and physical qualities; to promote a wider acquaintance and a broader outlook on the part of agricultural men through fellowship in a national organization that stands for the best social, mental and moral development.

-from the *Golden Crescent*



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10101 N EXECUTIVE HILLS BLVD
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: _____ Employer: _____

Business address: _____

Family: _____

Major: _____

Initiate Class: _____

Comments: _____
