

BETA GAMMA CHAPTER Crescent

ALPHA GAMMA RHO

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-PLATTEVILLE



SPRING 2004

NO. 83

Advisor Report



Gentle rains, green grass, and singing birds are all signs that spring must be here at last. Well it has been a long winter for the men of Beta Gamma and the School of Agriculture. We are all looking for plenty of sunshine and warmer weather. A few more short weeks and

the semester will be over. Where does the time go?

Beta Gamma has made a real effort to recruit new members to replace the large graduating classes of the past semesters. Last fall 12 excellent men joined our ranks and this spring three additional men became brothers. Currently 11 brothers live in the house. This is considerably less than desired but unavoidable under university policy requiring all freshmen and sophomores to live in the dorms. Since most of the new brothers are either freshman or sophomores, we should see more men occupying the house in the very near future. The eleven brothers in the house have had to tighten their belts in order to have the camaraderie of a fraternal living experience. For three days during the last week in March, Josh Terhune who is one of the national chapter consultants visited members of the chapter and university administrators. It is good to get an outside perspective on the function of the chapter and really gives everyone a real reality check. I am hopeful that the report will provide the chapter with some good insight into the direction the chapter is moving.

The chapter is currently involved in spring clean up in anticipation for April dates that center around Founder's day and Parent's day. Due to the past few open winters, the brothers have been reconditioning the lawn by reseeding some areas and fertilizing others. Overall, I think the chapter continues to move in the right direction. The chapter is constantly on the look out for members who would contribute to Beta Gamma. However, an appeal to the alumni is necessary to insure that the chapter contacts as many potential members as possible. Remember recruitment is everyone's responsibility. If you know of a student planning on attending UWP, inform the chapter so they can make contact and inform that perspective member of the benefits of an AGR membership. In addition, as alumni I encourage you to take a more active role towards the professional development of the undergraduates. Volunteer to become a mentor to an undergraduate member or officer,

make an effort to attend a weekly chapter meeting, sponsor or lead a workshop related to professional development. Your support is greatly appreciated. As alumni, you have a wealth of knowledge to share regarding the influence of AGR in your life or work. We must work together to strengthen the bonds of brotherhood now and in the future.

On a final note, I would like to provide you with an update on the building construction at the Pioneer Farm. The Ag Technology center is open with most of the farm personnel relocated to the building. In fact, this year's Founder's Day meeting will be held at the center. The open house for the Swine center was held on January 15th. Over 350 people toured the facility. Within the past few weeks, the farm staff moved the swine herd into the new buildings. It is anticipated that over 1,000 pigs a year will be marketed from the Swine center. However the uniqueness of the center is the composting aspect of handling the manure. All manure will be marketed and sold off the farm. The Living and Learning center should be finished by late May. It is a 24-bed facility with a common kitchen and living room area. It will be used to house workshop participants, researchers and guests of the university. In addition, a new 200-cow dairy facility will begin construction next spring. The dairy will have automatic milking stations as well a traditional herringbone parlor.

As you can imagine, there is a lot of activity in the School of Agriculture and at Beta Gamma. The School of Agriculture and the Beta Gamma chapter continue to move forward. May we all continue to remember our agricultural roots and support the brotherhood of Alpha Gamma Rho.

Fraternally,
Doc Mee

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Alumni Corner

Board of Directors Alpha Gamma Rho-Beta Gamma Chapter 2003-2004

Randy Braker

Board Member

N8054 State Hwy 73
Randolph, WI 53956
920-326-3675
rbbraker@ticon.net

Mike Grulke

Board Member

1900 Colorado Ave
Sun Prairie, WI 53590
mfgrulke777@aol.com

Gregg Wolf

Board Member

458 Park St.
Pulaski, WI 54162
(920) 822-1870
gwolf@tds.net

Scott Laufenberg

Board Member

6694 Royal View Dr.
DeForest, WI 53532
(608) 864-3765
slauf1@aol.com

Robert Hannes

Board Member

148 S. Bartlette
Shawano, WI 54166
(715) 526-3457
Robert.Hannes@dnr.state.wi.us

Jason Brown

Board Member

1006 Valderama Court
Waunakee, WI 53597
H-608-850-5234
SUJABROWN@mail.tds.net

Gary T. Klug

Board Member

796 Sugarbush Road
Luxemburg, WI 54217
H-920-863-5584
kluggt@wheel.datcp.state.wi.us

Kevin Heimerdinger

VNR Alumni Relations

830 Union St., Apt. #3
Platteville, WI 53818
(815) 291-7839
heimerdk@uwplatt.edu

Jim Hollenberger

Board Member

N6415 Kroghville Rd.
Waterloo, WI 53594
jimberger@jefnet.com

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.

Lost Alumni...

The following people are listed as missing in the Beta Gamma directory. If you know where they are, please email the Beta Gamma Chapter at agr@uwplatt.edu or give us a call at (608) 348-6470. Thank You.

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:

Steven Burgess
John Elvekrog
Lyle Jeske
James Limmex
Devin Neuneker
David Schoppe
Paul Zuelke

Daniel Dreis
Darwin Fish
Kim Keesey
Michael Martz
Larry Raupp
Randall Studeman

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

Mentors Needed for Active Chapter Offices

It has been mentioned in the past that there are brothers that would be willing to ease the transition period between new officer teams, especially since the new officer team will take over in January. If you are one of those brothers who is interested in becoming a mentor for a certain office in the active chapter, please email the fraternity at agr@uwplatt.edu or call us at (608) 348-6470.

clip & save

CONTACT US:

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

Noble Ruler's Report

Brothers, as the Noble Ruler of the active Beta Gamma chapter, it is my responsibility to share with you the happenings of our chapter. First off we have been dealing with low in house numbers (11). To combat this problem, we have taken on multiple fundraising activities to help pay fees. Our first was a date/work auction during which brothers were sold to a bidder for their choice of a date or work. From selling the 34 brothers, we made about \$640 and everyone involved had a blast. We are also currently working on a scrap metal drive to raise money for the chapter. Now that good weather is around, we are hoping that it will be taking off soon.

The chapter has also worked to be more active in the community with its community service program through family advocates and any other phone calls we may have received. One such project was removing the old bowling alleys from campus. We also have a brother working closely with Family Advocates to see if they ever need any help. So far, we have been asked to clean up a lawn and install some shelves in a house. We feel that getting across a positive image of the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity and the UW-Platteville Greek System is very important.

This spring the chapter added three new members new its ranks. I feel that all of these men will add plenty in personality and academically to our chapter. They have all been a great addition so far, and we look forward to their contributions in the future.

This summer is a special occasion. This summer we celebrate the Centennial Celebration for the National Alpha Gamma Rho and we hope to take a sizable amount of brothers out to the Columbus, OH, on August 15-18.

I am enjoying my first term as the Noble Ruler for Beta Gamma and hoping for another successful fall semester full of improvements and new ideas from the brothers.

Fraternally,
Benjamin T. Lawfer
Noble Ruler

Leadership Conference 2004 Report

By: David Heimerdinger (Alumni)

There were 12 actives, as well as myself, that attended the AGR Leadership Conference in St Louis. The conference was held from 1:00 pm to 7:00 pm on Friday, February 13, and 8:30 am. to 9:30 pm on Saturday, February 14. There were various general sessions as well as some breakout sessions that the individuals could attend. During the general sessions we talked about different topics such as strategic planning, risk management, networking, communication, goal setting, and about personalities and where each fits best. Some of the break out sessions talked about job interviewing skills, servant leadership, and other topics based for individuals. This year's leadership Conference was jam-packed with great information.

One of the main focuses of this year's conference was strategic planning. One of the biggest misconceptions when making a strategic plan is the people that should attend these meetings. Nationals said that if you're designing a strategic plan it is important to get as many people involved as possible. This includes the involvement of even the lowliest freshmen to any alumni, not just the executive boards. This is a very important process and plans the future of the organization. This was the fifth leadership conference that I have attended. I thought that this leadership conference was the best one. I have learned more from this leadership conference than I have from the previous four that I attended when I was an undergraduate. These conferences are becoming more helpful to those that attend. Next year the conference will be held in our home territory, Milwaukee, WI. I would encourage any alumni from our chapter to attend. These conferences are not just for the undergraduates. It would be nice to see if we could have the most members present as well.

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

GOLF COURSE
 4740 Pierceville Road
 Cottage Grove, Wisconsin 53527
 (608) 837-4774



Coming from Madison:

Take I-94 to the Sun Prairie/Cottage Grove Exit 244. Turn north on Hwy. N. Turn right on Hwy. TT. Take your second right onto Pierceville Road, and another right onto The Oaks driveway.

Coming from Milwaukee:

You'll see us on the north side of the interstate as you are approaching the Sun Prairie/Cottage Grove Exit 244 on I-94 Westbound. Turn north on Hwy. N. Turn right on Hwy. TT. Take your second right onto Pierceville Road, and another right onto The Oaks driveway.

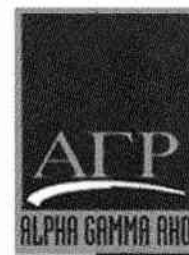




Alpha Gamma Rho Beta Gamma Chapter

1st Annual Golf Event Saturday, June 12th - 2004

The Oaks Golf Course
4704 Pierceville Rd
Cottage Grove, Wisconsin
608-837-4774



This is a wonderful opportunity to renew friendships, enjoy playing 18-holes on a beautiful new golf course, and share a delicious dinner with long-time friends. All proceeds will be used to fund scholarships through the "Foundation for the Future".

The Oaks Golf Course and Oakleaf Restaurant was a long time dream of the Blaska family. This facility was built and successfully completed on one of the family farms. The Blaska family, as long-standing members of Alpha Gamma Rho - the Beta Gamma Chapter, welcome you to enjoy their prestigious facility. Golfers and non-golfers, men and women - please join your friends from the agriculture industry for a very special day.

Please consider paying your annual dues and making a donation to the "Foundation for the Future".

Our schedule for the day includes:

- | | |
|------------|--|
| 11:00 a.m. | Registration starts and box lunch for all golf participants. |
| 11:45 a.m. | Team Scramble Event - times starting off the first tee.
Clubhouse will remain open to all for reminiscing throughout the afternoon. |
| 6:00 p.m. | The Oaks Specialty Buffet Dinner |

Please detach lower reservation card and return with payment no later than June 1st, 2004 to allow course staff to adequately organize this inaugural event. We look forward to joining old friends and making new ones during this enjoyable event. Here are just a few things to keep in mind:

- Space is limited, so please sign-up early to ensure your attendance!
- This day includes 18 holes of golf with a cart included.
- **Rain or Shine, social and dinner events will proceed as planned.**
- Hole sponsorships are needed and are available at \$75. (Contact Scott Laufenberg at 608-575-6189 slaufenb@fdah.com)
- Non-AGR guests are welcome in the company of a brother
- Proper attire is required. (No cut-off shorts allowed, collared shirts required for men)
- Enter as a team if you wish. Indicate team name on entry form

Sincerely,

Jack Ellickson,
608-516-2402

Scott Laufenberg,
608-575-6189

Mike North,
608-348-3233

and other Alpha Gamma Rho alumni

Name: _____ Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ St. _____ Zip Code: _____

Team: _____

Participation

- ☐ \$95 - Full event schedule _____
- ☐ \$75 - Lunch & Golf only _____
- ☐ \$25 - Social & Dinner only _____
- ☐ \$25 - Annual dues _____
- ☐ Foundation Donation _____

Make Check Payable to: Alpha Gamma Rho

Return to:
Jason Brown
1006 Valderama Court
Waunakee, WI 53597
(608) 849-0860

AGR Alumni Board Forms Assessment Committee

The Board of Directors has assembled a Facilities Assessment Committee. The purpose of the committee is to look at all physical AGR properties owned by the Alumni and analyze long-range maintenance alternatives. The formation of the committee is in step with the resolutions of the Strategic Planning Session held last year prior to the 2003 Annual Meeting.

Committee is made up of 4 members (Mike Grulke, Mike Fisher, Doug Cropp, and Bill Retza) and a representative from the AGR undergraduate chapter.

What is the committee doing?

Right now the committee has produced a draft Facilities Assessment Report which was delivered for review to all the committee members, undergraduate chapter, and Alumni Board members in December 2003.

What is the report about?

The report outlines the evaluation of existing properties (house + land), the evaluation of on-going maintenance costs, the evaluation of the storage shed and the possibility of a recreation out building, evaluates professional opinions and trends, and identifies specific maintenance alternatives ranging from do nothing (routine maintenance) to building a new AGR house in Platteville. The report will also cover the AGR financial status and look at various funding alternatives if needed.

The report is incomplete at this time and is being further reviewed by all Facilities Assessment Committee members, undergraduate chapter and the Board of Directors. Seven alternatives were listed in the draft report and by no means are the only alternatives. It is assumed that many more alternatives will be derived and reported.

What are some of the alternatives being considered?

The committee is looking at several long-range maintenance alternatives including what to do about the garage facility. Listed below are some alternatives being considered in the Draft Report. Again, these alternatives are not final nor represent all of the possible alternatives.

- * **Alternative 1** - Do nothing (maintain existing facility indefinitely - yearly maintenance schedule)
- * **Alternative 2** - Remodel existing house to have fresh new look
- * **Alternative 3** - Add on new space to the house (do not remodel existing house)
- * **Alternative 4** - Add on new space to the house (remodel existing house to match new addition - fresh new look on existing house)
- * **Alternative 5** - Build new house at 845 W. Madison St. (remove old house)
- * **Alternative 6** - Build new house on Jenny Lot (keep or sell house at 845 W. Madison)

- * **Alternative 7** - Buy or build a new house in different location in Platteville
- * **Garage Alternatives**
- New standard type garage similar in size as old one, 2 door.
- Expanded garage with open room for assembling / storage.
- Garage / Storage / Activity Building - open area for events.

What is next for the committee and the report?

Right now the committee is reviewing the draft report and formulating additional alternatives. A presentation on the Draft Report was given at the 2004 Annual Meeting. At this time, I anticipate the following schedule:

- * April 2004 to September 2004 - Finalize all alternatives and finish the Final Report. Crescent article in April / May 2004 describing alternatives and asking for comments from Alumni Body.
- * September 2004 - Make formal presentation to Alumni Board of Directors and announce a preferred alternative. Last chance to make modifications.
- * November 2004 - Deliver Final Report. Receive official endorsement of preferred alternative from Alumni Board and Undergraduate Chapter.
- * November 2004 to February 2005: Special Letter to Alumni announcing decision, Crescent Article describing decision, Annual meeting announcement
- * April 2005 - Give official presentation at the Annual meeting for the preferred alternative and ask for Alumni vote (yes or no) on the preferred alternative.

It is anticipated that after the April 2005 Annual Meeting, the Facilities Development committee will be dissolved and the efforts of the Alumni Board would turn to procuring funds for the preferred alternative and scheduling the implementation of it.

The big goal envisioned by the Committee is to have the preferred alternative implemented (constructed - or not) by the 35th Anniversary meeting in April of 2007. Please keep in mind that the preferred alternative may be a "no-build" alternative and would not require any implementation.

YOUR Alumni participation is greatly appreciated in this effort. Please offer any comments regarding the Facilities Assessment Committee and alternatives and send your comments in writing, email or phone call to Mike Grulke (see information below). The report is still in draft form and not readily available. There will also be more information in the upcoming year sent out by mailings or in the Crescent.

Submitted by Mike Grulke, Committee Chair.

Mike Grulke
1900 Colorado Avenue
Sun Prairie, WI 53590
608-834-3093
michael.grulke@gasai.com

AGR Bios

SENIORS:

Hello! My name is Jeremy Holthaus. My stud number is 533. I will be graduating from UW-P with an Animal Science degree with a Dairy Science emphasis. Since joining Alpha Gamma Rho in the spring of 2000, I have had many memorable experiences and made many friends. My plan after graduation is to find a job in the dairy industry as a cattle evaluator, or develop my own herd of registered cows. My advice to others would be to get involved as much as you can, work hard, and enjoy your college experience.

Hello! My Name Is Matt Adams. My stud number is 547. I will be graduating from UW-P in May after four years here. I joined Alpha Gamma Rho in the fall semester of 2000, and have had many memorable moments since then. In the future I will go to veterinarian school in Madison. I plan on working in the large animal field. My advice to others is that you only receive great rewards from making greater efforts.

Hi! My name is Adam Bergman. My stud number is 556. I will be graduating from UW-P in May of 2004. My major is Animal Science with an emphasis in Dairy Science and Agriculture Business. I hope to find a job as a herdsman and feeder. Since joining Alpha Gamma Rho in the spring of 2001 (Beta Rho), I have had many good memories with the people of the organization. My advice for the upcoming members is to say what you think. If you do not speak up, things will not change.

Hi! My name is Kristopher Scheider. My stud number is 571 and I am from Dakota, Illinois. I am graduating from UW-P in May of 2004, majoring in Dairy Science. Currently I am working for Select Sires as a relief breeder. I plan on continuing in the agriculture field, hopefully becoming a herdsman in a large dairy facility. I joined the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity and it has helped me out in many ways. In leaving, I offer a few words of advice: "No matter big or small, take one day at a time, for time management is the key to everything."

Greetings! My name is Josh Costello and I am a senior majoring in Agriculture Education. I am from Maquoketa, Iowa and will be graduating in May 2004 from UW-P with a B.S. in Agriculture Ed. I am currently searching for a job and hope to remain in Wisconsin. I plan to teach high school agriculture and develop an outstanding FFA program. Words of advice for younger members: "Get involved. Grades are important, but you will be judged by what you have done and who you know, NOT what you know!"

NEW INITIATES:

Hello! My name is Wade C. McLaughlin. I grew up on a corn and soybean farm in Alpha, Illinois. I am active in many clubs here at UW-P. I am involved with the Crops Team, Agronomy Club, and Ag Council. I joined Alpha Gamma Rho in the spring of 2004 in the Beta Psi class. My hobbies include basketball, baseball, and restoring antique tractors. I would like to obtain my masters degree after graduation. In the future I would like to be an agronomist or a farmer.

Hello! My name is Reid Gill. I am currently a junior at UW-P majoring in Agriculture Business. I grew up on a dairy and grain farm in Shullsburg, Wisconsin. I am a member of the Alpha Zeta honor society. I joined Alpha Gamma Rho in spring of 2004 as a member of the Beta Psi initiate class.

Hello! My name is Blake Teutschmann. I am currently a sophomore at UW-P double majoring in Agriculture Business and Animal Science. I joined Alpha Gamma Rho in the spring of 2004 as a member of the Beta Psi initiate class. I am involved in the Alpha Zeta honor society and the Conservation Club. I joined Alpha Gamma Rho to meet new people, make new friends, and explore new opportunities.



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Alpha Gamma Rho

845 W. Madison St.
Platteville, WI 53818

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

ALPHA GAMMA RHO NATIONAL OFFICE
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: _____ Occupation Employer: _____

Business address: _____

Family: _____

Major: _____

Initiate Class: _____

Comments: _____