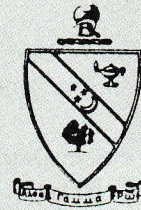


BETA GAMMA CHAPTER Crescent



SPRING 2007

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-PLATTEVILLE

NO. 88

Advisor Report



Spring is finally here!!! The robins are back and the active chapter is also looking forward to nice weather. There has been quite a bit of optimism and excitement regarding the future of the chapter house. The undergraduate chapter welcomes the vision for the planned updates, renovation and possible addition to the chapter house. As you may be aware, the Alumni Board under the leadership of Scott Laufenburg has been busy addressing housing issues, concerns and directions and is working with a consultant to develop strategies for a fund raising program to address the future housing of the chapter. Further information regarding future housing and this year's Founder's Day activities will be addressed in greater detail later in this crescent.

Over the past two years, I have had the distinct pleasure to have David Heimerdinger as co-advisor for Beta Gamma. David as you may be aware is an alumnus of Beta Gamma and currently teaches in the Industrial Studies department in the College of BILSA at UW-Platteville. David brings a unique perspective to the advising role and provides valuable leadership to the chapter. I appreciate the sacrifices he makes to attend all of the Beta Gamma meetings, activities and functions.

Overall, it has been a great year for the undergraduate chapter. They have achieved the highest overall GPA for all active Greek chapters on campus. This is a scholastic goal they had set for themselves and one they hope to continue to keep. Scholastics are a very important part of the Beta Gamma chapter. They have been involved in numerous community service activities and functions and continue to be well respected in the Platteville community. Recruitment went well in the fall with twelve new, high quality members joining Beta Gamma. This spring was almost as successful with nine outstanding young men being initiated into our ranks. In fact, six of those new members are exchange students from the Netherlands. Our AGR influence will be evident as those young men return to their home country later this summer. These students from Dronten Agricultural College have certainly added a new dimension to our Southwestern Wisconsin Beta Gamma chapter. We all realize now that the world is a much smaller place. Our

hope is that the Dutch students will take the seeds of fraternal brotherhood back with them and sow them. Who knows, maybe some day there will be an AGR chapter at Dronten, the Netherlands.

In late February, David Heimerdinger and I had the distinct pleasure of attending the annual AGR leadership conference in Indianapolis with fourteen of the chapter's finest. This year's theme was "Leaders, One Step Ahead". The alumni can be very proud of our chapter because we certainly had strong leaders at the conference. These young men returned from the conference with great ideas and are excited about implementing some of them in the chapter. Unfortunately, no one from our alumni association made the trip to Indianapolis. It is sad that few alumni take advantage of the great programs 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 was not experiencing most of the problems other chapters in the nation were observing. Every active and alumni member should attend at least one leadership conference sometime during their college or professional career.

In the School of Agriculture, the current Tristate Initiative which recruits students from Illinois and Iowa has been successful. Our current Ag enrollment is over 500 students. We anticipate that our total enrollment should approach and even exceed 600 through this program within the next three to five years. In fact, our growth rate has been so good that we are adding a tenure track position in the Agribusiness area. This is the first entirely new position in over ten years. These are exciting times because a high proportion of our new

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initiates are from either Iowa or Illinois. This initiative should increase our potential pool of new initiates for Beta Gamma.

The new Pioneer Dairy Center should have cattle residing within its walls by the time you read this *Crescent*. There has been a few set backs in the past six months which prevented cattle from populating the center but those have all been resolved. The Dairy Center will hold 200 cows with half the herd being milked with robotic milkers and the other half milked in a traditional double five herringbone parlor. The dairy staff has looked forward to the move-in day for months. The dairy center personnel and I have also been working with the Iowa Ayrshire Club. They are in the process of donating Ayrshire embryos to Pioneer Farm. This will make a welcome additional breed to the dairy center once those embryos are implanted and calves are on the ground.

Finally you are welcome to stop by and visit the undergraduate members at the chapter house or the School of Agriculture any time. Many new and exciting projects are being initiated at the university especially the additions and renovations of the Ullsvik Center (the old student center) and at Pioneer farm. Being public facilities the buildings are normally always open but to be sure just call ahead for a tour. Stop by and see the robotic milkers at work. I will be looking forward to visiting with you in the near future either at Homecoming in the fall or at a future Founder's Day in the spring.

Fraternally, Doc Mee

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.

Brothers,

It is that time of year again, the grass is getting green and everything seems to be springing to life. As with every spring semester, a new officer team takes the reigns. Always there is a transition period that can be tough and trying for the new officers, but this year seemed to have gone very well. The new officer team is a very coherent group of guys that will keep the chapter onward with its forward progress.

In February, Doc. Mee and I, along with the new executive board went to Indianapolis, Indiana for the annual Leadership Seminar. Each year nationals holds leadership seminars in four different cities across the US. This year the format had changed some. The home office was able to get the same four presenters for all four of the conferences. This allowed all the topics covered at the conference to be the same at each location. It seemed to be very effective. The actives came home with great ideas and are now working towards implementing some of them. I'm confident that the leadership of the active chapter will put their newly gained knowledge to good use. The leadership of this fine organization will continue to be strong in both the School of Ag as well as campus wide.

This semester we initiated six students from the Netherlands. They are exchange students from the Dronten Ag Program. We are hoping to be a catalyst for extending Alpha Gamma Rho into Europe and creating a larger international presence as well as becoming more active in today's changing international environments.

As we continue into the fall, the actives as well as the alumni board are currently trying to create an updated membership directory. There should be a page within this *crescent* that asks for current information. You can either fill out the form and mail it to the house or feel free to send me the information by email to heimerdd@uwplatt.edu. We are hoping to try and create a large email list so that we could eventually send the *crescent* through email if so requested. I hope you will take some time out of your busy schedules to reply with this information.

As the semester continues, the graduates of this fine organization will venture into the real world. I know the experiences in Alpha Gamma Rho will leave in them lifelong friends and countless memories. Good luck to all that are graduating. It has been a pleasure working with such a fine group of undergraduates this past semester, and I look forward to seeing the same caliber of students this fall.

Fraternally,
David Heimerdinger, Advisor



NOBLE RULER'S REPORT SPRING 2006

Greetings brothers, it is my pleasure as Noble Ruler to convey the accomplishments and endeavors of Beta Gamma chapter to fellow members. With the New Year came a new officer team. After all the accomplishments of the past year, we have some big shoes to fill. The executive board and chapter as a whole has never been a more cohesive group. We have held strategic planning events on three separate occasions to keep our chapter on the track that we want to be on. The chapter as a whole has reached 41 members, after recruiting 9 members this spring while adding to the previous semester's recruiting accomplishments. We have 18 members living in the house and 17 scheduled to live at 845 W Madison St. in the fall.

Making better men has always been what Alpha Gamma Rho is about. We firmly believe to make better men, we need a good foundation. That is why we strive to find quality members to recruit into membership. Although we do not have an official goal for the number of men we would like to recruit each semester, we have been blessed with good classes both this semester and last. I think this speaks to how well each of the brothers in the active chapter takes recruiting seriously.

Academically Alpha Gamma Rho has been very solid at UW Platteville. With that in mind we are very proud of our accomplishments scholastically last semester. There are three categories that a Greek organization is judged academically. One is the new member GPA, two is the active member GPA, and three is the overall GPA. Beta Gamma was first for all men's Greek organizations across the board.

The School of Agriculture has an exclusive exchange program with an agricultural school in Dronten, Netherlands. This semester we have the privilege of having six Dutch male agriculture students amongst our ranks at UW Platteville. The stories and experiences of these students are a unique glimpse into agriculture in parts of the world other than ours. We decided to pursue the opportunity to have these students as part of Alpha Gamma Rho and Beta Gamma welcomed all six students.

March 31st marked Founder's Day. Beta Gamma was excited to reunite with the alumni of the organization. It is always exciting to reunite with the alumni to exchange stories and reaffirm our common goals for the future of Beta Gamma. We also extended an invitation to our parents and family to join us on April 1st. I have never seen a larger turnout at our Parents' Day. This speaks very well to how much our families support what we do and what we stand for.

Beta Gamma has been updating our website. For those that don't have the address, it is www.plattevilleagr.com. We are asking that you register

so we can stay in contact with you. Alpha Gamma Rho is working to try and ease and speed communications between the alumni and the active chapter. Our website is a valuable tool, but we are asking that you register so we have current information and to be patient while we are updating our website to be ever more user friendly.

As summer approaches we all are gearing up for summer vacation, jobs, or internships. I assure you, just because school is out, doesn't mean that Beta Gamma will be idle. We are planning summer recruiting events and planning sessions. If you have any recommendations on whom we should be actively recruiting, or if you would help in recruitment in your area please call either our VNR Recruitment, Nick Venable or myself.

Thank you for all your continued support and we look forward to working with you in the future.

Fraternally,
Christopher Keil "582"
Noble Ruler
Beta Gamma

From the Alumni Board President

Hello Brothers

I am Scott Laufenberg and have completed my term as Alumni President. We re-elected two members to the board and added a new one. Greg Wolf and Bob Hannes were elected to second terms. Greg Wolf will be serving as President. Jack Ellickson was also elected to the board and will serve as treasurer. Please join me in welcoming Jack to the board and thanking Greg and Bob for their service. I will continue to serve as Chairman of the Capitol Campaign and Jason Brown will serve as Treasurer for the Campaign. Jason has done an outstanding job as Alumni Treasurer for the last 10 years.

Things at Platteville are moving at a very fast pace. The new Dairy Facility is completed and enrollment at the School of Agriculture is at an all time high of 500. 530 are projected for 2007 and 600 by 2010. The Tri-State Initiative is successfully bringing in additional students from Illinois and Iowa at reduced out of state tuition.

Approval was granted to move forward with a house renovation at the April 2006 Annual Meeting. We have completed a feasibility study and have plans set for the Fundraising Campaign. We'll start contacting alumni soon to raise funds.

I challenge everyone to make some time in your busy schedules and participate as an Alumni of Beta Gamma. Let's not take lightly our charge "To make Better Men". We have many areas to utilize your experience in the organization. Anyone interested in taking a more active role please contact Scott Laufenberg at 608-575-6189 or slaufenb@fdah.com.

Fraternally
Scott Laufenberg 81'



Alpha Gamma Rho
Beta Gamma Chapter

4th Annual Golf Event

Saturday, June 23rd – 2007



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

You are invited to take in an opportunity to renew friendships, to play 18-holes on a beautiful award winning golf course recently enhanced with the state-of-the-art Uplink GPS system, and to share a delicious dinner with long-time friends. The outing will once be held at The Oaks Golf Course (recipient of ***Golf Digest's America's Best New Courses Award for 2004- #5 Best New Affordable Public Golf Course***) and Oakleaf Restaurant. This recreational wonderland was a long time dream of the Blaska family. As long-standing members of the Alpha Gamma Rho – Beta Gamma Chapter, they welcome you to enjoy their prestigious facility. All golfers and non-golfers, men and women are invited and encouraged to join their AGR friends for a very special day. Attendees from last years event felt that "a good time was had by all"...an AGR tradition.

Our schedule for the day includes:

- 12:30 p.m. Registration begins for all golf participants.
- 2:00 p.m. Team Scramble Event – tee times organized from the first tee.
(*The Clubhouse will remain open to all for reminiscing throughout the afternoon.)
- 7:30 p.m. The Oaks Specialty Buffet Dinner

Please detach the reservation card at the bottom of this page and return it with payment no later **than June 8th, 2007** to allow the golf course staff the proper time to

adequately organize this event. As always, this will prove to be an enjoyable time among old friends.

- Space is limited, so please sign-up early to ensure your ability to participate!
- The golf event will cover 18 beautifully designed holes (includes cart)
- Hole sponsorships are needed and are available at \$100. (Contact Scott Laufenberg at 608-575-6189 slaufenb@fdah.com)
*Get your pledge class together to Sponsor a hole!!
- Non-AGR men and women are welcome in the company of a brother
- Proper golf attire is required. (No cut-off shorts or jeans, collared shirts required for men)
- Enter as a team if you wish. Indicate team name on entry form below.
- **Rain or shine**

On another note, if you haven't already done so, please consider paying your 2007 annual dues at this time.

Sincerely,

Scott Laufenberg
608-516-2402

Jack Ellickson
608-516-2402

Name: _____ Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip Code: _____

Team: _____

Participation

- ☐ \$95 – Full event schedule _____
- ☐ \$75 – Golf _____
- ☐ \$25 – Social & Dinner _____
- ☐ \$25 – Annual dues _____

☐ Visa

☐ Master Card Number _____ Exp _____ Sign _____

Make Checks Payable to: Alpha Gamma Rho
Master and Visa also Accepted

Return to:

Jack Ellickson
1813 Sunrise Court
Stoughton, WI 53589

NEW BROTHERS

Wilco Altena

As an exchange student from the Netherlands I am studying Business at the University of Wisconsin, Platteville. I am active at the Ag-Business club and I am a proud member of Alpha Gamma Rho. I will get my degree in Animal Science this year, at the Professional Agricultural University Dronten, The Netherlands. I recently received my Cambridge Advanced English Degree in Sydney, Australia. I grew up in an agricultural area due to the fact my parents farm dairy in the north east part of the Netherlands. I have a passion for traveling and I am very social. In the near future I would like to start with a Msc in Management at Business Universiteit Nyenrode in the Netherlands.

Chad Baker

My name is Chad Baker and I am from Orangeville, Illinois. I am currently a junior at UW-Platteville where I am majoring in animal science with an emphasis in dairy science. After graduation I plan to return home to the family dairy farm where I plan to help expand the dairy into a much larger operation. I also plan to someday own a farm of my own, where I hope to start grain farming while also continuing to dairy farm with my family. Back in high school I was a member of the FFA chapter for 4 years where I held the office of reporter and also was a member of the dairy judging team. I was also a member of the snappier 4-H club for 13 years. I am currently an active member of the Orangeville volunteer fire department.

Jan Pieter

My name is Jan Pieter Rijpma and I am studying Agribusiness and Accounting at UWP. This spring in 2007 I follow courses at UWP, because of an exchange program with the CAH Dronten in the Netherlands, an agricultural school where I study Arable Farming. I grew up on a crop farm in the Northern part of the Netherlands. I will graduate in the summer of 2007. In August I would like to start with the MSc in Management study at the Nyenrode Business Universiteit in the Netherlands.

Kees DeGroot

I am an international student from the Netherlands. My major there is plant and crop science, in Platteville I am taking some more Ag business courses. I grew up on a dairy farm in the north part of the Netherlands, in the province Friesland. Since five years my parents have a dairy farm in Hungary. My hobbies are: playing sports, listening to music, traveling, working on the farm, watching TV. At the moment I am planning on start a MBA program in America in the spring of 2008.

Luke Eastwood

My name is Luke Eastwood. I am a sophomore at UWP and majoring in Ag Business. I was born in Darlington, WI and lived on our family farm until I was around 4. At this point in time my dad became ill with kidney failure and the doctors didn't give him much time to live. The other relatives thought it would be a good idea if we left the farm. We moved into my grandpa's farm in Middleton, WI and that's where I have stayed until the present time. My mom is a nurse and my dad now

sells insurance. I have an older brother who is a mechanic and he has a son who will be 4 in April. I have an older sister who is an accountant in Missouri and a younger sister who is going to a technical college back home. Some of my hobbies are working in our shop, playing sports, hanging out with friends, and four wheeling.

Ron Lubberts

I'm an Exchange student from The Netherlands and I am studying for 1 semester on the University of Wisconsin Platteville. I'm a senior in Agri-business. I live in a little town called Aalden which is in the northern part of The Netherlands approximately 2 hours from Amsterdam. I'm involved in the Ag. Club.

I enjoy travelling, skiing, motor cross, and riding my motorcycle. My future goals are to graduate in summer 2008 with a degree and obtain a successful career hopefully in international business and marketing. I enjoy being a member of AGR because it makes my time in Platteville a lot nicer and get a taste of the sense of brotherhood. AGR gives me also the opportunities to meet many new people.

Paul Leenheer

I am Paul Leenheer, I was born in 1984 in the Haarlemmermeer Polder in the Netherlands where I grew up on a crop farm. This polder was a fresh water lake until 1850 when they pumped out the water to protect Amsterdam from floods. Nowadays the bottom of this lake is city and farmland where the major crops are Potatoes, Sugarbeets and Wheat.

I went to highschool in my hometown Hoofddorp and after that to the Agricultural University in Dronten to study for my Bachelors degree in Plant Science.

In my senior year I went for one semester to UW-Platteville where I currently study, and am a member of AGR.

Joost Jonk

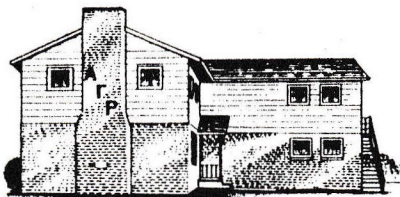
I am taking part of the exchange project between the Agricultural University in The Netherlands and the University of Wisconsin, Platteville.

In The Netherlands my parents have an arable crop farm in Flevoland with, potatoes, sugar beets, onions and wheat. In the future I will take over the farm.

After graduating in July 2007, I would like to start a Master programme in International Business.

Mitchell Dehn

My name is Mitchell Dehn from Beaver Dam, WI. I am a freshman at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville studying Agbusiness. My mother is a retired high school Spanish teacher and my father is a retired policeman. I have one sibling (Karalyn, 24) who is attending the University of Wisconsin-Stout and earning a graduate degree in child psychology. I was the reporter, then the president of my FFA chapter in high school, played football, track and was also on the high honor role. Ever since I was a child, I loved our family farm. We run about 1,300 acres of corn, soybeans, wheat, sweet corn, lima beans, and peas. I also held a job on the side at a 500 head dairy farm. I was very involved and continue to enjoy working within agriculture.



Alpha Gamma Rho

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WE ARE UPDATING OUR DIRECTORY AND NEED YOUR HELP!!!!!!

Please fill out and return to the AGR house at 845 W. Madison, Platteville, WI 53818,
or email David Heimerdinger at heimerdd@uwplatt.edu

Name _____

Address _ _____

Phone # _____

Email Address _____

Also, please visit our website at www.plattevilleagr.com and register to gain access at other files and
profiles of actives and other alumni!!!!