

# ALPHA GAMMA RHO BETA GAMMA CRESCENT

*December 2025*

## Alumni Spotlight - Kevin and Denice McArtor

*By David Ward #085*

Brother **Kevin McArtor #280** and his wife Denice, a former Rho-Mate, operate a busy and unique Agri-Tourism operation near Malta, Illinois. Jonamac Orchard is a three generational family apple orchard and pumpkin patch. Jonamac Orchard has been in operation since 1984 when Kevin's parents purchased the property. Kevin and Denice got involved in the early 90s and purchased the house and 2 acres next door where they have lived since 1996.

As the name suggests there are apple trees and apples at Jonamac. The orchard has 20,000 apple trees of many different varieties. Not one apple goes to waste. In addition to eating them you can get pies and other baked goods. Apple Cider Donuts are a favorite. Each weekend day during their open season they make around 1300 dozen donuts. For those people who are thirsty some of the apples that do not make the grade for eating are made into apple cider, hard cider and apple wines. Those apples that are left over Jonamac has shooting range with Apple Cannons. Jonamac also has a corn maze a pumpkin patch and many other opportunities for family fun. The gift shop well stocked with donuts, caramel apples, fudge, crafts and novelty items. The Cider House tasting room is also available to sample and purchase the hard cider and wine. Many visitors are from the Chicago area, being located about an hour away. Jonamac is open 17 weeks each Fall, beginning the 3rd week in August through Thanksgiving. Jonamac welcomes approximately 100,000 visitors each year and employs 150-200 part time employees.

Kevin knew he wanted to be an AGR before he started college. His cousin was an AGR at the University of Illinois. Kevin used to hunt with a friend near Apple River Illinois, this got him interested in northwest Illinois and UW- Platteville. While visiting Platteville with his parents they attended a luncheon at the AGR house. Kevin also recalls attending a AGR rush party while he was still in high school. Kevin majored in Ag Economics and is a member of the Alpha Delta pledge class. Kevin would go on to become Noble Ruler of Beta Gamma in 1985. Kevin and Denice continue to support Alpha Gamma Rho at Platteville in many ways. At the 50th Anniversary Celebration the donated some of their wine and hard cider to the silent auction. Kevin currently serves as treasurer of the Beta Gamma Alumni Association.

Denice grew up on a dairy and hog operation near Mineral Point, Wisconsin. After graduating from Mineral Point High School, she chose to further her education at UW-Platteville because it was close to home. She majored in Ag Business. She remembers being one of a few female students majoring in Agriculture. She is surprised how high the percentage of female students majoring in Agriculture is today. While at Platteville Denice became a Rho-Mate and was chosen President of the Rho-Mates.

After graduation Kevin went to work for Farm Credit in Dixon, Illinois. Two years later he and Denice started working at what is now the Resource Bank in Malta, Illinois. Kevin and Denice have two sons Max 31, and Jacob 29.



# Advisor Report

By Dr. Charles Steiner #653, Beta Gamma Advisor



I am pleased to share this advisor's report highlighting the continued growth, accomplishments, and progress of the AGR Beta Gamma Chapter. The fall semester has gone by quickly and the undergraduates have been committed to serving the university, community and recruiting new brothers in a variety of meaningful ways.

We strive to uphold the values of brotherhood, scholarship, leadership, and community service that define Alpha Gamma Rho. Membership remains strong, with 42 active undergraduate brothers representing a wide range of majors within the School of Agriculture, Engineering and beyond. Recruitment efforts this fall were highly successful, bringing in a new class of 13 dedicated young men eager to contribute to the chapter and the agricultural community.

Academics remain a top priority. The chapter's average GPA continues to rank among the top fraternities on campus, with several members earning Dean's List honors. Brothers are actively engaged in student organizations such as the Ag Ambassadors, Ag Business Club, Agronomy-Soil and Water Conservation Club, Block and Bridle, Collegiate Farm Bureau, Pioneer Dairy Club, and Interfraternity Council.

Service to others continues to be a central focus. This semester, the chapter hosted its annual Ag Fest in September, welcoming back School of Agriculture faculty, staff, students and alumni to kick off a new academic year. They have engaged in several campus and community events including Day on the Farm at Pioneer Farm, Homecoming events, Adopt a Highway roadside cleanup, food drives and assisting community members in need. The brothers collectively contribute hundreds of volunteer hours each year, demonstrating AGR's commitment to "Making Better Men" and serving our community.

The chapter house continues to serve as a hub for brotherhood and leadership development. Regular maintenance and improvements continue to be made possible through the support of our alumni and the hard work of the undergraduate members. We are especially grateful to the AGR alumni board and alum Frank Raupp for all the assistance with managing repairs, maintenance and upkeep of the house and grounds.

We deeply appreciate the continued involvement and support of our alumni board and network. Your mentorship, guidance, and financial contributions are critical to sustaining the success of the chapter. We encourage all alumni to visit the house when in Platteville and to participate in alumni events such as Ag Fest, Homecoming and Founders Day. If you would like to stay connected, please ensure your contact information is current with the alumni board and check out the new and improved website at: <https://plattevilleagr.com/>

In the School of Agriculture (SOA), we welcomed a new Assistant Professor of Dairy Business and Economic Development, Dr. Kelvin Amon. Dr. Amon holds a Ph.D. in Food and Resource Economics from the University of Florida. This is a new position, funded by the Dairy Innovation Hub, focused on improving on farm decision making and competitiveness for Wisconsin dairy producers. We also hired Amy Church as a lecturer in Agribusiness; she has significant industry experience and is teaching our Introduction to Ag Business and Agricultural Consulting and Sales courses. SOA enrollment this fall is 448 undergraduates, one less (449) than last year and up from the previous two years. Of the 448 SOA undergraduates, 123 (27%) are male and 325 (73%) are female. This highlights the continued trend of less male students and emphasizes the shift to recruiting quality men from across the university.

*continued on page 3*

## Beta Gamma Key Contacts

December 2025

Alpha Gamma Rho, Beta Gamma Chapter  
845 W. Madison Street, Platteville, WI 53818

### Chapter Officers

Noble Ruler: Grant Otter - [otterg@uwplatt.edu](mailto:otterg@uwplatt.edu)  
VNR Recruit.: Kurt Zimmerman - [zimmermanku@uwplatt.edu](mailto:zimmermanku@uwplatt.edu)  
VNR Memb. Dev.: Samuel Martin - [martinsamu@uwplatt.edu](mailto:martinsamu@uwplatt.edu)  
VNR Alum. Rel.: Tyce Bettenhausen - [bettenhauset@uwplatt.edu](mailto:bettenhauset@uwplatt.edu)  
VNR Finance: Payton Bunker - [bungerp@uwplatt.edu](mailto:bungerp@uwplatt.edu)  
VNR Planning: Derek Schwartzlow - [schwartzlode@uwplatt.edu](mailto:schwartzlode@uwplatt.edu)  
VNR Operations: Jonas Jandrin - [jandrinjo@uwplatt.edu](mailto:jandrinjo@uwplatt.edu)  
VNR Scholarship: Braden Rogers - [rogersbra@uwplatt.edu](mailto:rogersbra@uwplatt.edu)  
VNR Activities: Owen Trone - [troneo@uwplatt.edu](mailto:troneo@uwplatt.edu)  
VNR Public Relations: Jack Tamutzer - [tamutzerj@uwplatt.edu](mailto:tamutzerj@uwplatt.edu)  
VNR Provisions (1): Tony Miller - [millerant@uwplatt.edu](mailto:millerant@uwplatt.edu)  
VNR Provisions (2): Samuel Wolf - [wolfsam@uwplatt.edu](mailto:wolfsam@uwplatt.edu)

### Chapter Advisors

David Heimerdinger: [heimerdd@uwplatt.edu](mailto:heimerdd@uwplatt.edu)  
Charles Steiner: [steinerc@uwplatt.edu](mailto:steinerc@uwplatt.edu)  
Ryan Pralle: [ryan.pralle@outlook.com](mailto:ryan.pralle@outlook.com)

### Board of Directors

Kim Keesey, President, 2023-2026  
270-303-3185, [agrkk180@gmail.com](mailto:agrkk180@gmail.com)  
Jay Long, Vice President, 2023-2028  
815-708-3598, [jlong3584@gmail.com](mailto:jlong3584@gmail.com)  
Ken Gibson, Secretary, 2025-2028  
815-864-9554, [pkgibson59@gmail.com](mailto:pkgibson59@gmail.com)  
Kevin McArtor, Treasurer, 2023-2026  
815-761-8996, [kevin@jonamacorchard.com](mailto:kevin@jonamacorchard.com)  
[PlattevilleAGRTreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:PlattevilleAGRTreasurer@gmail.com)  
James Kruger, 2024-2027  
608-369-1510, [sofinebo@frontier.com](mailto:sofinebo@frontier.com)  
Mark Keesey, 2025-2028,  
262-501-7176, [agrmak222@gmail.com](mailto:agrmak222@gmail.com)  
George Kilbride, 2025-2026  
608-977-4176, [gkilbride57@gmail.com](mailto:gkilbride57@gmail.com)

### Crescent Newsletter

Chuck Miller, Editor, 608-628-5799, [cmiller4424@gmail.com](mailto:cmiller4424@gmail.com)  
Dave Ward, Assistant Editor, 920-723-1211,  
[palum76@yahoo.com](mailto:palum76@yahoo.com)

### 55th Founders Day Anniversary

Dave & Kris Welsh, Chairs, 262-903-1870  
[dave.welsh21@gmail.com](mailto:dave.welsh21@gmail.com)



## Message From the President

By Kim Keesey #180 Alumni Board President



It's been a real honor since being named the Alumni Board President in April. Beta Gamma is blessed to have such a great group of undergrads! These young men have won numerous national awards and continue to focus on recruitment with 20 brothers in the house this fall. While the current situation is great, the alumni board and committees are focusing on how to continue our tradition of excellence. This

requires a vision with even more involvement from our alumni and undergrads. One of the first steps we implemented was to put more responsibility and focus on our committees. There are currently six committees that contain five to six members including several alumni, a board member, and an undergrad. The committee's role is to plan, research options, and bring recommendations to the alumni board to make the best decisions and expedite projects. One example of this

is the fundraising committee that has worked diligently to find ways to maximize tax deductions for donors. Another example is our new website! It is phenomenal. What a great way to go down memory lane and get plugged in to current activities. I would encourage you to visit the website and log in.

I think you would agree that our experiences at Beta Gamma were not only memorable but developed life skills and friendships that you can't get any other way. Many of us have not been back to Platteville in years as we were busy with our career, family, and other interests. That was my situation as well, but I can tell you it's been extremely rewarding to be a part of helping Beta Gamma focus on the future. If you feel the same way, we invite you to share your talents and experiences. Our success is only going to happen if we can engage more of you to join a committee, be a mentor, or help financially.

Thank you for your support. God bless you and your family.

## House and Grounds Report

By George Kilbride #181



Good news! The insurance policy enabled us to cover the cost of a new roof and siding on the north and west sides of the house caused by the devastating Good Friday hail storm. In addition, the

deck has recently been stained and new shrubs planted. The outside of the house is looking great!

We are in the process of replacing the 14-year-old hot water heater

and have been doing quite a few minor repairs and upgrades. With 20 guys in the house, maintenance is ongoing with plans to improve the inside living quarters. We will be providing a more detailed plan for bathrooms, kitchen, educational space, and basement as part of the housing fundraising campaign. We are looking forward to making these upgrades to improve the quality of the house while maintaining the value of the property. Please consider giving to the upcoming campaign to help attract the best young men!

## 55th Anniversary Celebration

By Dave Welsh #355



On March 13th, 2027 we will celebrate the 55th anniversary of Beta Gamma at Ulsvik Hall in Platteville. Mark your calendars but more than that – would you like to be on our committee to help plan it?

We could use a few more people on the committee to help in areas such

as marketing, Friday night events at Steve's Pizza, auction items and

decorating. Please reach out to me at 262-903-2870 or dave.welsh21@gmail.com. It's a great way to connect with your fraternity brothers. Larry Raupp, David Bonhoff and my wife, Kris, would really appreciate your help!

### Would you like to donate to a Beta Gamma Scholarship Fund?

If you wish to make a donation to a scholarship fund, make your check payable to the Educational Foundation of AGR and mail it to Platteville AGR Alumni Treasurer, PO Box 7, Platteville WI 53818. In the memo section of your check please indicate which fund you wish to donate to.

To give by credit card, note that National AGR has changed this process to reduce transaction fees. Go to <http://www.alphagammarho.org/donate>. On the Donation page scroll down and select "Local Chapter Support", on the next page enter an amount, then provide your credit card information. Next click "I'd like to support" and choose either Beta Gamma Scholarship Endowment Fund or Dennis Valstad Memorial Endowment Fund. Next click "Save" then "Continue". Here enter your contact info. Last, click "Donate" to process your payment.

*continued from page 2*

As we move into the next year, the chapter remains focused on enhancing leadership development opportunities, growing our membership, and continuing to live out the ideals of Alpha Gamma Rho both on campus and in our communities. Our newly elected executive team will be traveling to Chicago in late January 2026 to participate in Top Leaders Institute, the premier educational training program for AGR chapter leadership teams to develop individualized plans for long-term chapter success.

Thank you for your steadfast support and for continuing to be a part of the Beta Gamma legacy. Together, we are shaping the next generation of agricultural leaders. Fraternally, Chapter Advisors, Chuck Steiner, David Heimerdinger and Ryan Pralle

# The Capitol Campaign - Continuing the Tradition of Excellence

By Rev. Ken Gibson #231



The Beta Gamma Alumni board of directors has established the need for a capital campaign to maintain Beta Gamma AGR as the premier fraternity on the Platteville campus. As such, a fundraising committee has been established and they have been hard at work developing the logistics for this effort. The committee has been meeting every month since March 2025 and will continue to meet to see this effort to its completion.

The campaign will begin on February 1, 2026. The board of directors and the committee have identified a three-tiered approach for the campaign.

## The three areas of emphasis are:

- House Improvements \$200 K
- Scholarship \$200 K
- Mortgage/Debt Reduction \$100 K

This approach creates a capital campaign goal of \$500K. At the writing of this article, the fundraising committee members and members of the board of directors have already pledged \$73,000 to the campaign.

The Fundraising Committee has secured several options for those interested in making a tax-deductible gift. Gifts for mortgage relief are not tax-deductible but would do much in making our Beta Gamma Fraternity even more successful. Every brother will receive a letter of invitation to donate to the campaign in the spring of 2026. In the meantime, if you would like to make a gift now to the **Continuing the Tradition of Excellence** campaign, please go to the following link: <https://plattevilleagr.com/giving/> or send a check payable to Platteville AGR Alumni, PO Box 7, Platteville, WI 53818. Please indicate in the memo section of your check which area of emphasis you would like to support with your gift.

The first area of emphasis of the fund-raising campaign is house im-

provements. Why raise money for the Beta Gamma House? The Beta Gamma chapter house is the heart of our organization. Remodeling the fraternity house is especially important given that our last renovation was 15 years ago. Over time, high-use areas such as the bathrooms and basement have experienced significant wear and tear, impacting safety, sanitation, and overall functionality. By concentrating our fundraising efforts on these spaces, we can ensure they are modernized, safe, and comfortable for all members. By request from the undergraduates, we are also planning upgrades to laundry spaces and increasing study spaces. Upgrading these key areas will greatly enhance daily living conditions, promote good hygiene, and create a more welcoming environment. Investing in renovations for the most heavily used parts of the house will have a lasting positive impact on our fraternity's community, reputation, and ability to attract and retain members.

The second area of emphasis is scholarship. Please see Scott Laufenberg's report in this issue.

The third segment of the fundraising campaign is reducing the house debt. Currently, we have a loan balance of \$198,906 at Mound City Bank with just over 10 years remaining. Our loan is up for renewal in April 2026 with the interest rate going from 3.94% to over 6.25% on a 10-year loan. If we can pre-pay the debt by \$100,000 over the course of the fundraising campaign, the new monthly payments would make us debt free in 5 years. Here are the benefits of paying down the debt: (1) improved cashflow, (2) build savings to help cover rising maintenance costs, (3) reduces our expenses, (4) keep lease rates to the actives more competitive, and (5) earn interest on savings.

**Continuing the Tradition of Excellence** Fundraising committee: Ken Gibson-Chair [pkgibson59@gmail.com](mailto:pkgibson59@gmail.com), Jeff Bode, Brian Donnelly, Ken Fiedler, Bob Janes, Mark Keeseey, Scott Laufenberg, Jay Long, Michael Long, and Dave Ward

## Alumni Relations Committee Chair



**Gary Klug (Mug) #134** – Gary is originally from Mequon, WI and is a member of the MU Pledge class. Recently the Beta Gamma Board of Directors appointed Gary as Chairman of the Alumni Relations Committee. As an undergrad he served the chapter as Alumni Secretary and Pledge Trainer. These positions provided opportunities to work with the alumni, manage the Crescents, address directory and learn supervisory skills.

Gary has had an interesting career in food safety and quality assurance as a long-time regulator and front-line supervisor for the WI Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. He also

worked in private industry with cheese production, as a SQF consultant and with precooked bacon. His 'claim to fame' is that he helped develop, create and author bacon product specifications for Jimmy John's, Culvers, Starbucks and Red Robin. Gary recently retired and now is exhibiting Hampshire sheep nationwide. He also works at WI State Fair and does contract work for the WI 4-H Foundation.

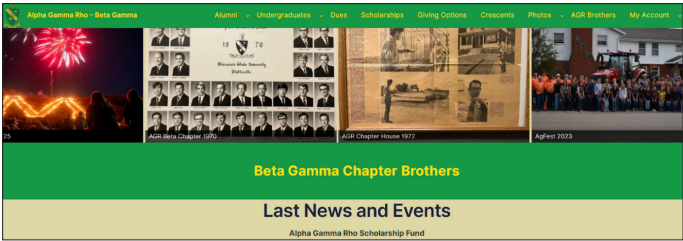
As the Alumni Relations Chairman Brother Klug is looking forward to working with the VNR of Alumni Relations and the undergraduate Brothers. Gary's goal is to build relationships with Beta Gamma Brothers through events, the Mentor Program and fostering the common grounds of AGR life. He hopes to find and create opportunities for alums and undergrads to work and socialize together. He will be asking for volunteers, willing participants, and ideas to help the process.

## Your Dues Support the Crescent

If you find the Crescent publication valuable and informative, please support the newsletter with your dues. We now have over 800 brothers on our mailing list. As our membership list grows so does the expense to print and mail the Crescent. Costs average over \$2,700 per issue. We sincerely thank those that regularly support Beta Gamma with their alumni dues.

# New Beta Gamma Website - PlattevilleAGR.com

By Mark Keesey #222



Ready to take a trip down memory lane of your years in Platteville? Want to remember what you and your other Brothers looked like during those years? Want to remember the activities that took place on campus and in the house (for example a group of Brothers went skydiving!). Want to know what happened to some of our Brothers over the years? You can do all that and much more with the PlattevilleAGR.com website that was released earlier this fall.

There are two distinct areas to the website. One is public and one is private (for our Brothers and others like our Advisors). Having these

distinct “sides” to the website will allow us to share “Brothers only” information through a login access. The public side is always available through PlattevilleAGR.com.

To access the Brothers side of the website, you’ll need to “login” (from the PlattevilleAGR.com page). For those Brothers with email addresses on file, you have already received multiple emails related to the website and the login process. And for those Brothers that do not have established emails on file, you can send an email to either: plattevilleagr@gmail.com or plattevilleagrwebsite@gmail.com (with your name, telephone number, and email address). One other option, you can leave a message at 608-588-6869 (include your name, telephone number, and email address). Someone will reach out once you have been included in the website’s database.

We could include a lot more information about the website in this brief article (but then it wouldn’t be so brief...). But instead, we encourage all Brothers to login and experience all of the information the website has to offer! Enjoy!

## Fall 2025 Scholarship Report

By Scott Laufenberg #224



The scholarship committee, not unlike our organization, is committed to Making Better Men. Our goal is to recruit the best and brightest then reward high achievers and brothers of high character. In 2026 we also want to take some additional burden off the undergrad chapter by funding the National Leadership Conferences.

We are doing this by offering New Initiate Scholarships. These scholarships help cover a portion of the initiation fees for all new Initiates, making it easier for them to join Alpha Gamma Rho. This year we are proud to welcome an outstanding group of 13 new initiates. Additionally, we are providing two Making Better Men scholarships to further support our recruitment efforts. These scholarships are awarded to individuals who demonstrate exceptional leadership potential, emphasizing our commitment to developing future leaders within the fraternity.

We offer the Grulke and Valstad Scholarships for high achievers and members of the highest character. In 2026 we would like to help the chapter train its leaders by paying the cost of the AGR National Top Leaders Institute.

We need everyone’s support for the upcoming “Tradition of Excellence” fundraising campaign to achieve our goals.

### Our fund balances are as Follows

Beta Gamma Scholarship Fund at AGR National.....\$122,133  
Dennis Valstad Scholarship Fund at AGR National.....\$45,206  
AGR Scholarship Fund at UW Platteville Foundation.....**New**

Our current budget (spend) is about \$6,000. To fund our goals, we need to increase our fund balances by \$200,000.

## Notice of 2026 Alumni Dues

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Total Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### I would like my donation applied toward:

- ☐ 2026 Alumni Dues \$40.00  
☐ Other Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**To pay by check:** Make your check payable to Platteville AGR Alumni and mail to:  
Platteville AGR Alumni Treasurer, PO Box 7, Platteville WI 53818

**To pay online:** Visit <https://2026-alumni-dues.cheddarup.com/> or scan this QR code.





# Remembering Brothers Who Have Passed



**Donald Drewitz #9** - Brother Donald Drewitz passed away on July 17, 2025. Don was born in 1952, graduated from Westfield High School. After high school Don pursued a degree in Agriculture at UW-Platteville. Don was a member of the Eta pledge class and he was the ninth brother to sign the Charter. He will be remembered for his excellence in the classroom and for his humor around his fraternity brothers. Greg Nelson #77 and Don became lifelong friends as members of the ETA Pledge Class. Greg recalls spending a lot of time with Don at the foosball table “they were always enjoyable with the exception of the time when he happened to lose; Don was not a gracious loser. Greg goes on to say that “Don was able to earn top notch grades with minimal effort”. After college they were in each other’s weddings. As their families grew and their lives got busy Don and Greg didn’t get in touch very often. “We exchanged photo cards every year at Christmas and I remember a hand written message where he had pretty much built his own house and that Doc Loberger (UWP Professor and Beta Gamma Advisor) would be very proud of him. Greg concludes “anyone fortunate enough to know Don Drewitz will never forget him.” Don worked for 30 years for Del Monte/Kraft finishing as Plant Production Supervisor. In addition to work Don was an avid hunter and fisherman. Don is survived by his daughters.



**Leonard “Lenny” Pluemer #241** - Brother Pluemer of Lancaster, WI, passed away peacefully with his family by his side on Saturday, October 18, 2025 (age 64). Leonard was born on January 6, 1961 to Larry & Roberta (Cliff) Pluemer in Lancaster, WI. He graduated from Lancaster High School and attended UW-Platteville. Leonard was an entrepreneur who established multiple businesses including Video Venture, Rock-N-Dome NA Dance Club, Cobblestone Carriages, Lighthouse CD Express, Ranch House Lanes & Supper Club, and the Roadhouse. He had great appreciation and respect for Native American Culture and believed in

One Great Spirit. The highlight of his life were his children, Paige and Larry. He thanks all the medical professionals at UW Hospital and Clinics for assisting with his care while living with diffuse large b-cell lymphoma, Agrace Hospice and family & friends who all contributed to his care. Leonard is survived by his 2 children: Paige Pluemer and Larry Pluemer; mother of his children, Sandy (Schiffman) Pluemer; 6 siblings: Laurie (Gary) Simmons, Carol (Dennis) Hampton, Cheryl Knapp, Stanley (Jane) Pluemer, Gail Pluemer & Jeanne (Roderick Duff) Pluemer; along with many family members and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents and brother-in-law, Gale Knapp. In lieu of plants & flowers, donations are preferred to Kathy’s House in Leonard’s memory, <https://kathyshouse.app.neoncrm.com/forms/1>



**Scott Roberts #380** - Scott Roberts, age 55, of Janesville, WI passed away unexpectedly on Tuesday, June 17, 2025, while doing one of the favorite things he enjoyed most, helping someone who was in need of his help. Scott was born on February 11, 1970, the son of Harry and Sharon Ann (Emerson) Roberts. He grew up on the family farm in La Prairie Township, Rock County, WI. He attended Janesville Craig High School. In the fall of 1988, he went on to attend UW-Platteville where he received a bachelor’s degree in Agricultural Science. Scott resided on the family farm where he specialized in raising chickens and bees. He was well known for selling eggs and honey, especially at the Beloit Farmers Market as well as to his regular customers. As a youth, Scott was active in La Prairie 4-H and was a member of the La Prairie Grange. He attended Christ Community Church, Clinton. Scott will be remembered for the pleasure he received from helping others, his enjoyment of playing beach volleyball and for being a trickster, especially to his great nieces. Scott Roberts is survived by his father, Harry Roberts; sister, Fawn (Tom) Levault; nieces and nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews and numerous cousins. Scott’s mother preceded him in death on April 26, 2025. A visitation and funeral were be held on June 26, 2025 at Chris Community Church, Clinton, WI. Online condolences are welcome at [www.henkeclarson.com](http://www.henkeclarson.com).

## A Heartfelt Thank You to Our Donors

Sincere thanks to the following brothers that have made a donation to a Beta Gamma chapter scholarship fund, housing fund or the general treasury since the last Crescent was issued (5/1/2025). Your generous support and dedication to our mission of Building Better Men has made a meaningful impact on the future of Beta Gamma at UW-Platteville.

004	Mike Krutza	152	John Meyers	367	Jeff Radl
010	Mark Highland	224	Scott Laufenberg	374	Frank Raupp
035	Ron Pribnow	236	Richard Nelson	481	Luke Gierach
050	Dwight Horkeimer	280	Kevin McArtor	792	Justin Nehls
109	Charles Miller	296	Lyle Poch	793	Casey Clark
133	Kenrick Smith	336	John Oncken		

# Recognizing Brother Pokorny

By Trent Laufenberg #886



Brother Cameron Pokorny #903, originally from Waupun, WI, is currently serving with Alpha Company's 2nd Platoon in the 2-127 Infantry Battalion as part of an embassy support deployment under Operation Inherent Resolve in Iraq. Throughout his time overseas, Cameron has demonstrated exceptional professionalism, leadership, and commitment to his duties, earning the respect of those he serves alongside

During this deployment, Cameron distinguished himself in a battalion-wide competition for a coveted seat at the U.S. Army Pathfinder School – a rigorous and highly selective course with roughly a 60% fail rate. The selection process consisted of a demanding fitness test, a 12-

mile ruck march, and two-timed exams, where Cameron ranked among the very top performers in a battalion of nearly 700 Soldiers. His achievement secured him one of only two Pathfinder slots available.

Pathfinder School trains soldiers to become experts in establishing helicopter landing zones, parachute drop zones, and sling-load operations, making its graduates invaluable advisors during airborne and air-assault missions. Cameron's selection is a testament to his work ethic, capability and dedication to continuous improvement.

Brother Pokorny continues to represent Alpha Gamma Rho and the Beta Gamma Chapter with exceptional honor and drive, embodying the values of the brotherhood even while deployed. Cameron, thank you for your service to our country and we can't wait to have you back with us at Beta Gamma.

# Heimerdinger Named Assistant Dean



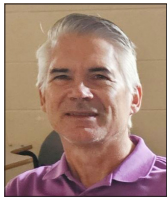
**David Heimerdinger #513** is a proud Pioneer, having earned both his Master of Science in Industrial Technology Management (with an emphasis in Technology Education) and BS in Agriculture Education right here at UW-Platteville. David brings a wealth of experience to his new role. He joined the School of Agriculture in 2020 after teaching for 15 years in the Industrial Studies

department, where he also served as Department Chair (2008–2011) and Program Coordinator for the Master of Science in Integrated Supply Chain Management (2011–2020). He continues to teach across both departments. Outside of the classroom, David enjoys fishing and spending time with his family. He lives in Platteville with his wife and four children and regularly returns to his family's farm in Pearl City, Illinois, to lend a hand with their farming operation.

# Alumni Updates



**Gary Klug #134**, Campbellsport, WI – Brother Gary has been showing and breeding Registered Hampshires since the mid 1970's. In 2025 he had a fantastic show season with his Registered Hampshire show string. The ewe in the pictured was Grand Champion Ewe at the Wisconsin, Missouri, Iowa, and South Dakota State Fairs. In addition, this ewe was named Supreme Champion at South Dakota. Also, named Grand Champion at the Registered Hampshire Show in Western Minnesota and Clay County, IA. Gary has had very good show seasons in the past, but this Ewe was made this season very special. Pictured with Gary is his nephew, Dylan Klug, who has his own breeding and show string.



**John & Barb Scott #282** – Have moved to Dubuque, IA and John has taken a position as Consultant with Brewster Cheese, Stockton, IL.



**Mike North #443**, Platteville, WI - The Wisconsin Corn-Soy Expo is proud to announce that Mike North will be a featured speaker at this year's Expo. North is the managing partner at Ever.Ag and a respected voice in agricultural risk management. The Expo will be taking place January 29–30, 2026, at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells. Reprinted with permission from the

www.midwestfarmreport.com



**Austin Benzing #799**, Buffalo, MN – Austin, originally from Sparta, WI, graduated from UW-Platteville in 2019 with a degree in Soil and Crop Science. After graduation he began Master's study at Oklahoma State University. There he worked as a Research Assistant in the Soil Fertility program under Dr. Rain. He graduated from OSU with a Master of Science degree in Crop and Soil Science in 2021. Austin first took a position as an Independent Sales Rep with Stine Seeds in Wisconsin. After a short year Austin was offered a position as District Sales Manager in Central Minnesota for Dairyland Seed in Buffalo, MN. Soon after moving to Buffalo, he met his wife, Chelsea. They married in May 2024 and were blessed with their first child in March of 2025.

## Do You Know Someone Who Will be Attending UW-P?

If so, please contact Kurt Zimmerman, [zimmermanku@uwplatt.edu](mailto:zimmermanku@uwplatt.edu), 217-649-2184 or Grant Otter, [otterg@uwplatt.edu](mailto:otterg@uwplatt.edu), 262-210-3009.

# Recruitment – Fall 2025

By Gabe Mentink #907



The Fall 2025 recruitment class is a phenomenal group of 13 young leaders that represent a bright future for AGR. The major change this year was the creation of an annual scholarship event that I organized to expand our outreach. For this event, I contacted over 1,000 Wisconsin agriculture teachers, school counselors, and other school staff to identify incoming UW-Platteville students who would be strong potential members. After gathering names, I reached out to applicants and invited them to an in-person event that included interviews, house tours, a tour of the campus farm and a meal.

The event had a turnout of five incoming students and every one of them ended up joining the fraternity. Although the scholarship had existed in the past, hosting a dedicated event where potential new members could get familiar with the house and meet brothers before school started

proved to be an excellent foundation once the semester began. In addition to this new approach, our traditional recruitment strategies, such as involvement fairs and word of mouth outreach, continued to deliver strong results. Altogether, these efforts make me optimistic that this increased engagement among incoming freshmen will carry into the future.

I would like to thank everyone who supported recruitment this year. If you have any information, ideas, or suggestions for improving recruitment, feel free to contact me at 608-370-0694 and I will pass it along to our next VNR Recruitment once they are elected.

## Beta Gamma Standing Committees

### House and Grounds

- Planning and managing housing projects including maintenance and renovations
- Works with the fundraising committee to prioritize funds for future projects
- Works with the active chapter to maintain the chapter house
  - George Kilbride - Chair
  - Frank Raupp
  - Kevin Klubertanz
  - Open
  - VNR-Operations- Jonas Jandrin

### Scholarship

- Administers the scholarship program incl. picking scholarship winners
- Advances leadership opportunities within the chapter with AGR foundation funds
- Identifies new ways the alumni can support the educational excellence of the chapter
- Works with the fundraising committee to grow the scholarship funds
  - Scott Laufenberg - Chair
  - Ron Goplin
  - Ken Von Rueden
  - Richard Grulke
  - Micheal Long
  - VNR Scholarship – Braden Rogers
  - Chapter Advisor - Dr. Ryan Pralle

### Communication

- Coordinates content for twice yearly Crescent publications
- Builds and maintains website including relevant alumni and chapter information
- Maintains list of names, addresses, phone numbers and emails of Alumni
- Informs alumni of any alumni news, events or information via email, Facebook and mail
  - Mark Keesey – Chair, Website Design
  - Chuck Miller - Crescent Editor
  - David Ward - Crescent Articles
  - Open
  - VNR Public Relations – Jack Tarnutzer
  - Ashley Yager – Layout editor

### Alumni Relations

- Plan alumni events
- Works with the chapter to have alumni and chapter joint events
- Runs the mentor program to build relationships with alumni and undergraduates
  - Gary Klug - Chair, Mentor Program
  - Jim Kruger
  - VNR Alumni Relations – Tyce Bettenhausen
  - Larry Raupp
  - Open

### Fundraising

- Plans and execute fundraising drives for the alumni association
- Works with the scholarship committee to identify scholarship fundraising needs
- Works with the housing and grounds committee to identify fundraising needs
- Keep lifetime giving records and manage the house giving tree
- Manages the Beta Gamma Fund, Valstad Fund and future housing fund
  - Ken Gibson - Chair
  - Jay Long
  - Scott Laufenberg
  - Michael Long
  - Brian Donnelly
  - Ken Fiedler
  - Jeff Bode
  - Dave Ward

### 55th Alumni Banquet/events

- Evaluate and recommend options to accommodate alumni needs
- Reserve facilities and cater, communication, etc.
- Coordinate alumni and actives to help with logistics
  - Dave & Kris Welsh – Co-director
  - Dave Bohnhoff – Co-director
  - Larry Raupp
  - VNR Alumni Relations - Tyce Bettenhausen
  - VNR Planning – Derek Schwartzlow
  - VNR Activities – Owen Trone
  - Mike North



# State of the Chapter

By Trent Laufenberg #886, Noble Ruler



Hello fellow brothers. I hope this finds you well and in even better health. Once again, the end of the year has snuck up on us here at Beta Gamma. As we move toward the beginning of a new year, I want to look back and recognize the achievements and high points of the past couple of months.

Regarding the size of our chapter, we have passed another great threshold. We now stand 42 men strong after an outstanding fall recruit-

ment class of 13 new members. These new brothers have already shown their drive to further our fraternity and its interests. We are beside ourselves to have initiated such outstanding gentlemen, and we look forward to continuing to grow with them as we make each other into better men. There have been 20 brothers living in the chapter house this fall semester, and there will be 19 in-house once spring rolls around. At the conclusion of the fall semester, we will be wishing two of our brothers the very best as they graduate and go off into the world to pursue their careers.

The Beta Gamma Chapter has also been awarded the Golden Chapter Award by our nationals, putting us once again in a very competitive place even when compared to chapters much larger and older than ours. This award caps off what has been such a successful year for our executive team and showcases just how hard they worked during their terms.

When it comes to academics, we remain fully committed to taking our studies seriously and upholding strong scholastic standards. Our chapter has worked hard to achieve a cumulative GPA of 3.37, a reflection of the dedication, discipline, and perseverance of our brothers. We recognize that academic success is the foundation of our future opportunities, and we consistently encourage one another to stay focused and excel in the classroom.

Our involvement on campus and within the community has continued to grow this semester. Our brothers hold officer positions across a wide range of organizations, including the Inter-fraternal Council, Campus Programming and Relations, Block and Bridle, Farm Bureau, Ag Ambassadors, Ag Business Club, Dairy Club, the Dairy Judging Team, and the Crops Team. These are just a few of the more than 20 clubs and organizations in which our members are actively engaged. Through these roles, they continue to develop strong leadership skills that will serve them well both during their time here on campus and throughout their professional and personal lives after graduation.

Our 49th annual Ag-Fest was well received yet again. This year's speaker was Steve Boe, who is currently the State Director for Farm-To-Power Wisconsin, working with local farmers and rural landowners interested in renewable energy. We had several local and regional companies attend as sponsors, which allowed the attending under-

graduates to form closer connections with potential employers. Some of the representatives from these companies were even alumni of Beta Gamma. We were lucky enough to have the Adam Bartel's Band back to perform live music after dinner, and we look forward to having them again next year. Speaking of next year's Ag-Fest, it will mark the 50th anniversary of the event in September 2026, it should prove to be one to remember. We look forward to seeing you all there.

Looking back on this past semester, I am proud to say that the state of our chapter is excellent. The executive team has worked hard this past year to continue our chapter's path of excellence, and we look forward to handing over the reins and guiding the next group elected to office. As we grow nearer to the start of their terms, I know that they will carry on the hard work of those who came before them and continue to live the promises and values of Alpha Gamma Rho. As long as we maintain strong relations among the alumni and undergraduates, we will continue to strengthen the true bond shared by the brothers of our beloved fraternity.

To our graduating seniors. Thank you for your dedication to Alpha Gamma Rho. Your hard work, leadership, and commitment to our values have set an outstanding example for your younger brothers. You have each played a vital role in helping us pursue our mission to "Make Better Men."

To our alumni brothers, past and present, who have supported us with their time, service, or hard-earned dollars. Thank you for your unwavering trust and generosity. We would not be where we are today without your continued involvement, and it is your support that allows us to remain the strongest fraternity on our campus.

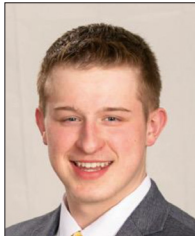
To the Alumni Board of Directors. Thank you for your constant enthusiasm and drive in creating the best home anyone could ask for on the UW-Platteville campus. Your efforts have shaped a truly exceptional experience for our undergraduate brothers.

To the Beta Gamma chapter advisors. Thank you for everything you do. We are deeply grateful for the time you take from your busy lives to guide and support us as we navigate this chapter of our own. I wish each of you the very best.

Serving as Noble Ruler this past year has been one of the most fulfilling experiences of my life. The memories made here are ones I will carry with me forever. I am honored and grateful to have served alongside so many friends and I am confident that the next Noble Ruler will continue to lead with excellence and work tirelessly to make our chapter even better. Thank you for trusting me with the opportunity to serve this fraternity and contribute to shaping the place we call "home."

Happy holidays to you all. I hope the new year treats you well. Don't hesitate to reach out or drop by 845 West Madison Street we would be more than happy to see you.

## Internship Experience



**Brayden Peter #887** joined the team at Wisconsin Pork Association as the summer intern in 2025. Originally from Howards Grove, Brayden is a senior at UW-Platteville. He's pursuing dual degrees in animal science and agricultural business. Brayden's agricultural roots run deep as he was raised on his family's show pig operation and is also employed at the university's Swine Center. His love for agricul-

ture encouraged him to become involved in 4-H and FFA at a young age. ing he wants to gain professional leadership and communication skills, educate consumers about the swine industry, and learn how to best pro-

mote pork and protect the state's right to farm.

Brayden has served as the official youth representative for the Wisconsin Pork Association. During his internship, he focused on marketing and promoting the pork industry in our state. More specifically his duties included helping coordinate state fair events such as the Pork Schoppe and Hall of Fame, promoting and implementing producer programming, job shadowing industry stakeholders, enhancing youth programs, developing and executing a special project, interacting with producers and allied industry members, and creating a final presentation upon completion of his internship. Reprinted from the MidwestFarmReport.com.

# Welcome New Initiates

By Gabe Mentink #907



**Austin Lankey #928** is a sophomore and is majoring in Construction Management with a minor in Business. Austin is originally from Sauk City, Wisconsin. He enjoys hunting, fishing, weightlifting, and showing livestock through 4-H and FFA. Austin joined AGR to meet new people and follow in the footsteps of his brother and friends.



**Luke Hand #929** is a freshman and is majoring in Engineering Technology Management with a minor in Agriculture and Applied Engineering Technology Management. Luke is originally from Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin. He enjoys showing beef cattle, playing sports, and being involved in FFA. Luke joined AGR to be around others with similar interests and values.



**Jacob Schley #930** is a freshman and is majoring in Agricultural Technology and Equipment Management. Jacob is originally from Clintonville, Wisconsin. He enjoys hunting, fishing, and working on a neighbor's farm. Jacob joined AGR after visiting with his brother and connecting with the members.



**Derek Schwartzlow #931** is a freshman and is majoring in Agribusiness and Dairy Science. Derek is originally from Monticello, Wisconsin. He enjoys bowhunting, playing guitar, fishing, and working for Monroe Surge. Derek joined AGR to find a college version of the FFA community he loved.



**Ashton Brusveen #932** is a freshman and is majoring in Agricultural Business. Ashton is originally from Cambria, Wisconsin. He enjoys hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, and farming. Ashton joined AGR after hearing from many alumni that it would be a great opportunity.



**Payton Bunger #933** is a freshman and is majoring in Soil and Crop Science. Payton is originally from Whitewater, Wisconsin. He enjoys showing livestock, doing custom hay work, and was active in 4-H and FFA. Payton joined AGR for the networking and strong community of brothers who share his values.



**Kurt Zimmerman #934** is a freshman and is majoring in Soil and Crop Science with a focus in Plant Breeding and Biotechnology. Kurt is originally from Camargo, Illinois. He enjoys running, skiing, and spending time with family, and is active in the UWP crops team and agronomy club. Kurt joined AGR to build connections and follow in the footsteps of his father and brother.



**Otto Schultz #935** is a freshman and is majoring in Agricultural Business. Otto is originally from Amherst, Wisconsin. He enjoys hunting, waterskiing, and showing pigs and ducks, and helps on his grandpa's beef farm. Otto joined AGR for the brotherhood and the connections it would bring.



**Owen Opprieht #936** is a freshman and is majoring in Animal Science-Comprehensive. Owen is originally from Eastman, Wisconsin. He enjoys hunting, showing livestock, and working on his family's third-generation beef farm. Owen joined AGR to connect with humble, hardworking men in agriculture.



**Tyler Athorp #937** is a freshman and is majoring in Mechanical Engineering. Tyler is originally from Mosel, Wisconsin. He enjoys hunting, running, and volunteering as a firefighter. Tyler joined AGR after hearing about it from an alumnus and wanted to meet others with similar backgrounds.



**Drew Eilers #938** is a freshman and is majoring in Agricultural Business with a focus in Soil and Crop Science. Drew is originally from Reinbeck, Iowa. He enjoys farming, football, fishing, and growing and selling sweet corn. Drew joined AGR to build connections and be part of a supportive group.



**Ben Johnson #939** is a freshman and is majoring in Agribusiness. Ben is originally from Laval, Wisconsin. He enjoys farming, hunting, and fishing while working on his family's farm in Baraboo. Ben joined AGR for the friendly community and the opportunities it offers.



**Wyatt Firkus #940** is a freshman and is majoring in Civil Engineering. Wyatt is originally from Stevens Point, Wisconsin. He enjoys golfing, playing pool and Ping-Pong, and video games. Wyatt joined AGR to become closer to the brothers and be more involved in the fraternity.



# Thank You For Your Support

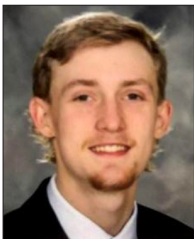
We thank the following brothers for having paid alumni dues in 2025 (12/1/2024 – 11/13/2025).

3 Michael Sands	77 Gregory Nelson	200 Stanley Jones	525 Jeff Adams
4 Michael & Laurie Krutza	78 Scott Weisinger	203 Larry & Kim Voigts	526 Preston Vincent
7 James Timm	85 Dave Ward	207 Kerry & Barb Henning	623 Branden Furseth
8 Ronald Goplin	90 Jack Ellickson	221 Paul Wegmann	659 Ryan Studnicka
10 Mark Highland	99 Richard Guenther	222 Mark Keesey	665 Abram Houzenga
14 James Jarvis	101 Gary Hansen	236 Richard Nelson	700 Daniel O'Brien
18 Patrick Krutza	108 James Smith	249 Gregg Raupp	702 Jon Biermeier
19 Jeffrey Key	109 Charles Miller	280 Kevin & Denise McArtor	723 Michael Hoffmann
32 John Elvekrog	116 Mark Mueller	282 John & Barb Scott	762 Dakota James
35 Ronald Pribnow	120 Patrick Kelly	296 Lyle Poch	792 Justin Nehls
37 Steven Bowdish	121 Raymond Morse	304 Kevin Klubertanz	793 Casey Clark
40 Mark Wienkes	133 Kenrick Smith	317 Robert Weiglein	864 Jay Long Jr
46 Michael Miller	134 Gary Klug	336 John Oncken	873 Will Roling
50 Dwight Horkheimer	152 John & Nancy Meyers	343 Richard Grulke	COL Dan Nankee
52 Jan Peterson	154 Michael & Lynn Martz	363 Larry Chipman	OTH Robin Patterson
58 Donald Von Rueden	176 Daniel McGowan	367 Jeffrey Radl	RHO Alana Skoyen
61 Richard Rickelman	177 Robert Pauli	374 Francis Raupp	
65 John Dorshorst	180 Kim Keesey	481 Luke Gierach	
71 Stephen Mergen	181 George Kilbride	484 Jeff Bode	

## Graduating Seniors



**Cole Krueger #877** is from Oshkosh, Wisconsin and is beginning his career as an application engineer with Crane Engineering in Kimberly. He will be sizing fluid process equipment for clients across the paper, wastewater, agriculture and food and beverage industries throughout Wisconsin. His long-term goal is to transition into a sales role, traveling to sites across the Fox Valley region. Cole's experience in AGR has been transformative, helping him grow both socially and professionally through leadership and connection. His various roles in the fraternity have strengthened his communication skills and expanded his professional network. AGR has set Cole up for success beyond college and provided friendships and experiences he will carry with him into his career.



**Lane Koning #904** is from Amboy, Illinois and plans to return home after graduation to take a full-time role in his family's golf car business. His time at AGR has been a cornerstone of his college experience, helping him grow both personally and professionally. Surrounded by driven individuals with shared values in agriculture and leadership, Lane developed strong communication skills and confidence. Through his involvement in the fraternity, he learned how to collaborate effectively and lead with purpose. AGR has provided Lane with meaningful connections and experiences that will support him well into his future. Most importantly, it has given him a brotherhood and memories he will carry with him for life.

## BILSA Golf Outing

*By Dave Ward #85*

On August 15, 2025 UW-Platteville College of Business, Industry, Letters and Science and Agriculture (BILSA) held a golf outing in Cottage Grove, WI to raise money for scholarships for students studying within BILSA. The outing was held at the Oaks Golf Course in Cottage Grove which is owned by Brother **John Blaska #5**. The Beta Gamma Alumni Association was a sponsor of the event. Approximately a dozen Brothers golfed or attended the Happy Hour after golf. Pictured above John Elvekrog, Dave Ward and Don Von Rueden.



## Platteville Oldies Picnic

*By Dave Ward #85*

Again, this summer Brother **Ron Goplin #8** organized a summer picnic for UWP alumni. In attendance were members of AGR, Sigma Tau Gamma and Gamma Phi Beta and their spouses. Most of those who attended were at UWP in the 1970s. This year's picnic took place on July 23 at Bingham Park near Blue Mounds, Wisconsin. 35 people attended. The picnic was an enjoyable opportunity to catch up with friends and recall college days in Platteville. Thank you, Ron and Deb for organizing this get together.





Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity  
1119 Caswell St  
Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**BETA GAMMA CHAPTER CRESCENT**

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

## 2026 Events

### December

19 Semester Ends

### January

26 Spring Semester Begins

### April

11 Founders Day

### May

16 Spring Commencement

22 Spring Semester Ends

### August

14 BILSA Golf Outing, The Oaks, Cottage Grove

### September

2 Fall Semester Begins

13 Oaktoberfest, The Oaks, Cottage Grove

TBD AgFest, AGR House

### October

10 UWP Homecoming

## Making Better Men Scholarship

Applicants must be an incoming freshman or transfer student and have a high school GPA of  $\geq 3.0$  or a college GPA of  $\geq 2.5$ . These two scholarships are funded by the Beta Gamma's scholarship funds. Congratulations to the Scholarship Winners!

**Luke Hand #929**, \$500 - Luke is from Sheboygan Falls, WI and is majoring in Engineering Technology Management. His dream career is to work for John Deere upon graduation.

**Derek Schwartzlow #931**, \$500 - Derek is from Monticello, WI and is majoring in Agribusiness. After graduation Derek plans to return to Monticello and pursue an ag business career, possibly agriculture sales.