BETA GAMMA CRESCENT

ALPHA GAMMA RHO FRATERNITY

MARCH 2021 UW-PLATTEVILLE

ALPHA GAMMA RHO ALUMNI REPORT

Michael Long, Alumni Board President

I hope this Crescent finds you and your family well and that you are enjoying the reprieve from this winter's cold weather. As can be said with much of 2020 our plans as an Alumni Board have had to be flexible. In July we were forced to hold our previously canceled annual meeting virtually, which limited our ability to converse with the undergrads and socially interact with the other alumni but we were still able to hold a productive business meeting. In 2021 the Alumni Board is hosting our annual meeting on March 27th, 2021 at 1pm. Currently we plan to have the Alumni Board and the undergrad officer team meet in person at the AGR house. This meeting will also be broadcast via zoom for all others to join. A link for the zoom call will be shared with our current email list and on Beta Gamma's public Facebook Page www.facebook.com/plattevilleal-phagammarho. If you haven't already please "LIKE" this page to see updates throughout the year from the active chapter. Please also remember that in the spring of 2022 Beta Gamma chapter will be celebrating its 50thAnniversary. A planning committee has started the preparing for this celebration.

Beta Gamma Scholarship

In 2020 the Alumni Board took on a monumental goal by starting an endowed fundraising drive to develop a scholarship fund to support the undergrad chapter. The entire Alumni Board and I are very pleased to share that donations to the scholarship fund have met and exceeded the goal of \$10,000 by Dec 1st which allowed us to fully receive matching funds from our anonymous donor. Thank you to everyone that has helped along the way to achieving this goal. In total the fund is now sitting at \$40,840 which will allow the first scholarship to be given in 2021. A Scholarship Committee has been formed to manage the scholarship program and will be making the first distribution from the fund within the next year. We are well on our way to reaching our goal of \$100,000 by March of 2022 (50th Anniversary) but need your help to achieve this goal.

Dennis Valstad Memorial Endowment Scholarship

We are also excited to announce a separate Endowment Fund that is being established at the AGR Foundation in the name of Dennis Valstad. Earlier this year the Platteville AGR Alumni Association received a gift from Denny's estate. The Alumni Board has decided to use \$25,000 of Denny's gift to start this endowment to provide a scholarship in Denny's name each year to a new member of our fraternity. A story of Denny's life and his amazing generosity is also included in a separate article within this edition of the Crescent.

If you would like to donate to the Beta Gamma Scholarship Fund or the Dennis Valstad Memorial Fund please make checks payable to: Educational Foundation of Alpha Gamma Rho, with the name of your preferred fund listed in the memo line. Please send checks to Jordan Alf, Alumni Treasurer, 5210 N. Grand Videre Dr., Janesville, WI 53548. Alternatively donations can be given online at www.alphagammarho.org/donate Be sure to choose the drop down for Scholarships and then the next drop down gives you the option for the Beta Gamma Scholarship or the Dennis Valstad Memorial Scholarship.

Membership Survey

In December the Alumni Board sent out a membership survey to our email list. With the help of our survey committee the results are being studied to see what further action should be taken. More detailed results are included later in this edition of the Crescent but overall the results showed an interest from many of our Alumni to become more involved and reconnect with other Alumni and the undergrad chapter. Going forward this committee with transition to start implementing the goals indentified from this survey.

Financials

The Beta Gamma Alumni Association financials remain solid as we reach the halfway point in our fiscal year which started July 1, 2020. So far this year gross income was \$39,300.85 and expenses were \$21,557 for net income of \$17,744. The first 6 months of this year includes a spring 2020 rent payment of \$7,938 which was not realized in the previous year. Beginning in the fall of 2020 the Alumni started receiving rent directly from each member that lived in the house. The timely collection of rent this fall has increased our rent collection over the previous year. The mortgage balance is \$211,311 and we are current on payments. We do not have any other debts or payables. In spring 2020 there will be 16 brothers living in the house.

Alumni Dues

Over the past few years, the number of our Alumni brothers has continued to grow but those that are paying their alumni dues each year has dwindled. Your dues are needed to publish the Crescent, fund alumni gatherings and to provide support to the undergrad chapter. We need your financial support to continue our fraternity's mission to make better men at 845 West Madison Street. New this year Alumni dues can be paid online at https://2021-alumnidues.cheddarup.com or by scanning the QR code below. Alternatively checks can be mail with the enclosed form to Jordan Alf, Alumni Treasurer, 5210 N. Grand Videre Dr., Janesville, WI 53548. Please also update your contact information if anything has changed for you in the past few years.

Engagement

In the next year the Alumni Board is looking for brothers to donate their time to the Beta Gamma Alumni in a multitude of ways. The first option would be to join the Alumni Board. In March two positions will come up for reelection on the alumni board. The next option to give back would be to join one of our committee's these would all be less time commitment then the Alumni Board but are vitally important to our Alumni moving forward. The current commit-

tees are: 50th Anniversary Committee, Scholarship Committee and the new Alumni Involvement Committee. If you are interested in learning more about any of these opportunities please reach out to me via email at mlong18@gmail.com or by phone at 815-508-7119. In this Crescent we have included a list of Continued on page 2



brothers that that we do not have an email address for. The list is sorted in PIN order. Please review the list for brothers that you know. If you have an email address for any of them please send them via email to Chuck Miller at cmiller4424@gmail.com so that he can update the Beta Gamma address file. A list of all deceased brothers is included in the Crescent. If you learn of brothers that have passed on that are not listed or learn of a brother passing in the future please send information to the Alumni Board so that we can inform the rest of our membership.

Lastly, I would like to thank all Beta Gamma Alumni Board Members, Undergraduate Officers and Advisors for all of their dedication to Beta Gamma AGR and Making Better Men.

NEW CHAPTER ADVISOR INTRODUCTION

Ryan Pralle



Hello Brothers. My name is Dr. Ryan Pralle (lota, #1568) and I am a new Chapter Advisor for the young men of Beta Gamma. Despite our present circumstances, it has been a wonderful

experience being welcomed by the chapter and joining in the work of making better men. I would like to take this opportunity to share a little about my background and role on-campus.

I come from a central WI dairy farm, where my parents, Scott and Pam, milk 400 registered Holsteins. Growing up, I was active in 4-H dairy project, FFA, and the Wisconsin Holstein Association. As a scientific pursuer of agriculture, I matriculated to UW-Madison where I received my B.S. (2015) and Ph.D. (2020) from the Dairy Science department. My journey with AGR began Fall 2011, when I was initiated into our order. I was an active member of lota serving on several committees and as the VNR of Planning. During my doctoral program, I continued my commitment to AGR by serving as a Chapter Advisor at lota for three years and as the Resident Advisor for one year.

This past August I became a Pioneer, joining the School of Agriculture faculty as an Assistant Professor in the Animal and Dairy Science programs. My position is supported by the Dairy Innovation Hub, a state initiative to keep the WI dairy community and economy at the forefront by harnessing and expanding the research and outreach resources at our major agricultural colleges. Therefore, my appointment prioritizes building a research program and capacity at UW-Platteville. My research interests are in dairy nutrition and data science, with the longterm goal of innovating data-driven management strategies that will promote cow productivity, efficiency, and health. In particular, I am excited to work with the new robotic milking units being installed at Pioneer Farms, researching how we can leverage these units as a precision nutrition and health monitoring tool. This spring I started teaching ruminant nutrition and I hope to develop a course that extends our applied dairy management curriculum next year.

It is an exciting time to be joining the Beta Gamma Chapter with the 50th anniversary coming up! What an awesome milestone and testament to the bonds of brotherhood AGR offers. I look forward to meeting and engaging with you all as our journey together unfolds.

UW-Platteville Alpha Gamma Rho Alumni Board 2020-2021

President

Micheal Long 11461 County Line Rd, Big Rock, IL 60511 815-508-7119 mlong18@gmail.com 2019-2022

Secretary

Justin Nehls W5658 Cty Rd S, Juneau, WI 53039 920-296-1740 nehls.justin@yahoo.com 2019-2022

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Alex Buchanan 1901 Quixote Dr, Janesville, WI 53546 608-432-8621 Buchanan-meitneralexanderj@johndeere.com 2018-2021

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Nick Huffman 1790 Maple Hill Rd, Hollandale, WI 53544 608-574-0827 nick@peakforage.com 2018-2021

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Scott Laufenberg 4561 Golf Drive, Windsor, WI 53598 608-575-6189 slaufenb@gmail.com 2020-2023

Director

Chuck Miller 1119 Caswell St, Fort Atkinson, WI 53538 608-628-5799 cmiller4424@gmail.com 2020-2023

BROTHERS HELPING BROTHERS

Donate to the Alpha Gamma Rho-Beta Gamma Scholarship Fund

Funds will be used to provide scholarships for new member recruitment, attend AGR leadership conference, attend AGR recruitment school and for outstanding scholastic achievement.

All gifts to the scholarship fund will be included in lifetime giving to the chapter on out giving tree.

- GOLD \$5,000+
- SILVER \$2,500-\$4,999
- BRONZE \$1,000-\$2,499

Other recognition is available for gifts of \$10,000+

CONTRIBUTE BY CHECK:

You can mail a check to the Alpha Gamma Rho headquarters noting that the money is for the Beta Gamma Scholarship by returning it to Jordan Alf, Alumni Treasurer, 5210 N Grand Videre Dr, Janesville WI 53548.

CONTRIBUTE ONLINE:

https://www.alphagammarho.org/donate

Be sure to choose the drop down for Scholarships and then the next drop down gives you the option for Beta Gamma!

If you have any questions about contributing, please reach out to our Chief Development Officer, Carol Johnson at 501-730-1962.



BETA GAMMA ALUMNI SURVEY 2020

Scott Laufenberg, Committee Chair

In November of the Alumni Board enlisted the help of Brother Mike Krutza and Lighthouse Leadership to conduct a survey of our alumni to better determine needs, inputs and direction going forward. 120 brothers responded to the survey with a good mix of age groups, the older group that joined prior to 1980 represented the largest amount of the responses. Our goal was to determine action items for the alumni board and the active chapter, we broke that down further to action items that we could move on quickly and others that would need to be addressed post COVID-19.

Action items for Q1 & Q2 of 2020

- Communicate our Facebook page, Facebook groups and web-page to the membership
- Upgrade our email lists and send information electronically when possible
- · Put out an Alumni Directory in PDF format
- Develop a plan to effectively communicate deaths of brothers

Post Covid

- Work on social outings for brothers and look to partner with UWP on events
- · Lots of interest in small group meetings
- Brothers indicated that a Founders Day meeting every other year was the most desired timing

Thanks to Brothers Chuck Miller, John Meyers, Ken Von Rueden, Ron Goplin, Mike Long, Kevin Klubertanz, Devin Frederick and Doug Laufenberg Special Thanks to Mike Krutza

BROTHER DENNIS VALSTAD - MEMORIAL GIFT TO BETA GAMMA

Chuck Miller #109

On July 13, 2019 brother Dennis Valstad of Ripon died at UW Hospital in Madison. He was 69. From his estate he donated \$50,000 to the Beta Gamma chapter. This is an amazing gift.

Denny grew up on a dairy farm just east of Barneveld and attended the Wisconsin State University – Platteville (as it was known at that time) from 1968 to 1972. Denny joined the fraternity near the beginning of the AGR chapter at Platteville and was a charter member, PIN #75. During his senior year he lived on the University Farm where I was one of his roommates. Denny was affectionately known as Slick Vic by many of his friends. There are many funny stories about Denny that have been shared over the years and at his funeral. None of them are derogatory but certainly fun and unusual.

While living at the farm he received his draft induction notice and served in the US Army from 1973 until his release in 1975 as a Specialist Fourth Class. After serving in the Army Denny took a position with the Green Giant company in Ripon, WI managing harvesting crews. After Green Giant ceased operations in the area Denny purchased a dry-cleaning business in Ripon. He ran this business until the owner of the property decided to sell the building at which time he retired. In retirement worked several jobs including delivering Pierce Fire Trucks around the country and delivering fertilizer for United Co-op. Also, in retirement Denny begin attending the oldie breakfasts in Verona organized by brother Ron Goplin where he re-connected with many brothers of his era.

Denny never married but had a long-time companion, Mary Novitske, who preceded him in death. Those of us that knew him might characterize him as an awkward but a genuinely nice person. He was described as being quietly attentive; he cared very much for people without drawing attention to himself. After his death we learned that he had some wealth but it never showed. About eight brothers and I attended his visitation and funeral in Ripon. Several months after the funeral we all received a letter from an attorney in Oshkosh. The letter stated that we were named as a beneficiary of his estate. It said that the sum of \$500,000 was to be divided equally to all that attended the funeral or visitation. Approximately 300 were in attendance. The report of his gift received much attention. Several newspapers printed the story and CBS News correspondent Steve Hartman visited Ripon. His report aired on CBS Sunday Morning and the CBS Evening News. When the checks were distributed it included a message from Denny that it is his wish that the gift be used for a cause that is pleasing to God.



Also, in his will he also chose to give \$50,000 to the Beta Gamma chapter of Alpha Gamma Rho. Denny did not indicate how he wished for his gift to be used, however, the Alumni Board has decided to establish a scholarship endowment fund in his name in the amount of \$25,000 and set aside \$25,000 in separate account for a future use (likely property improvements). Information on how to contribute to the Dennis Valstad Memorial Endowment Fund is contained elsewhere in this newsletter. In addition to the endowed scholarship, we will be recognizing Dennis's gift by naming a room in the chapter house in his honor. The dining room will be dedicated to Dennis Valstad #75, Charter Member.

GIVING TREE RECOGNIZES 28 BROTHERS

In this issue of the Crescent, we would like to recognize the brothers who have reached new award levels of giving since the Giving Tree was installed in the chapter house following the Building Campaign. Through their giving the brothers below will have an engraved leaf added to the Giving Tree. We wish to sincerely thank all donors, large and small, for truly helping AGR 'Make Better Men'.

Gold Level \$5,000 or more	#75 Dennis Valstad, #45 George Koerner, and #448 Michael North		
Silver Level \$2,500 - \$4,999	#3 Michael Sands, #81 David Houston, #85 David Ward, #148 James Kruger, #266 Jeffry Laufenberg, #285 Randall Binversie, #309 Herbert Yanke, #343 Richard Grulke, and #413 Craig Keller		
Copper level \$1,000 – 2,499	#7 James Timm, #10 Mark Highland, #48, Jeffrey Blaska, #170 Daniel Helgeson, #180 Kim Keesey, #188 Rick Kuhle, #280 Kevin & Denise McArtor, #282 John & Barb Scott, #320 Michael Daniels, #370 Duane Schaefer, #469 Erik Olson, #499 Randall Clark, #616 Robert Nosbisch, #652 Richard Bockhop, #660 Drew Ellis, and #700 Daniel O'Brien		

DONATIONS TO THE BETA GAMMA SCHOLARSIP FUND

3 Michael B Sands	106 Daniel Adams	296 Lyle Poch	443 Mike North
7 James R Timm	109 Charles Miller	320 Mike Daniels	469 Eric Olson
10 Mark Highland	120 Pat Kelly	324 Vincent Bush	483 Greg & Katie Wolf
19 Jeff Key	121 Raymond Morse	335 Jonathan Braymer	504 Andrew Schraufnagel
23 J Michael Blaska	127 John Hulbert	336 John C Oncken	526 Preston Vincent
32 John Elvekrog	149 Dale Pertzborn	343 Richard Grulke	573 Ben Lawfer
45 George Koerner Estate	153 Earl Heimerdinger	358 Jon Loitz	623 Brandon Furseth
48 Jeffrey Blaska	168 Jeff Kroes	367 Jeff Radl	652 Rick Bockhop
59 Stan Smith	178 Wayne Gerlach	370 Duane Schaefer	685 Jordan Alf
78 Scott & Linda Weisinger	207 Kerry Henning	374 Frank Raupp	717 Konnor Johnson
81 David Houston	224 Scott Laufenberg	382 Paul Steffes	727 Michael Long
85 David Ward	249 Gregg Raupp	398 Michael Grulke	792 Justin Nehls
90 Jack Ellickson	266 Jeff laufenberg	404 James Wendler	
94 Ken Whitmore	282 John & Barb Scott	418 Jerry Pegelow	

DECEASED BETA GAMMA BROTHERS

1 Robert Campbell	87 Thomas Kellom	167 Roy Luedtke	311 Raymond Key		
2 John Wegmueller	88 John Wachholz	179 Ronald Hagen	341 Roy Hoff		
20 Ron Suda	89 Richard Loberger	186 Dale Wiederholt	356 Gary Hodge		
24 Frank Schreiber	91 Warren Pett	255 Charles DeNure	366 Harold Beals		
36 William Wesp	102 John Marotz	259 Lawrence Prem	412 Dean Strauss		
41 Darrell Roberts	104 James McComish	275 Lloyd Linden	457 Fred Oomens		
45 George Koerner	107 William Von Rueden	278 David V Neuenschwander	579 Jeffrey Klever		
60 Steven R Windett	115 Wayne Zentner	286 Kevin Knuth	701 Joseph Smolenski		
73 John A Kruger	130 Timothy Thompson	290 Douglas Fitzsimmons			
75 Dennis Valstad	138 Duane Sherven	297 Jerome Hendrickson			

NOBLE RULER REPORT

Devon M. Frederick #823

Greetings from the Beta Gamma Chapter; I hope this letter finds all brothers doing well and in good health. Despite this past unique semester, the undergraduates of Beta Gamma have continued to represent the ideals and values of Alpha Gamma Rho. As much as possible, the chapter has made its best efforts to be active members through brotherhood, leadership, and community involvement.

This past May, the undergraduates of Beta Gamma parted ways with twelve graduating seniors. In addition to wishing those brothers the best of luck in their professional careers, the chapter became incredibly focused on rebuilding our strength of membership. Although the chapter was unable to achieve its initial goals, we did find success in recruiting and initiating a total of six quality brothers this Fall. New brothers, Jacob Mathias, Gavin Lankey, Mason Kruse, Jayson Long, Dylan Herbrand, and Lucas Boomgarden, have already displayed great ambition and potential leadership. In fact, of the six new brothers initiated, three have already been elected to officer positions within the chapter.

In addition to our new members, I am also very pleased to introduce the addition of our new advisor, Dr. Ryan Pralle. Dr. Ryan Pralle was most recently a chapter advisor at the lota Chapter of UW – Madison. This academic year, Dr. Pralle accepted a position here at UW – Platteville as assistant professor of animal science in the School of Agriculture. Dr. Pralle's ambition of becoming a chapter advisor here at Beta Gamma is a great testament to the future value he will provide. Without doubt, Dr. Pralle will be a dedicated, hardworking individual who will put forth all the necessary effort in bettering the Beta Gamma Chapter for years to come.

Due to the circumstances of virtual class transition at the end of the semester, officer elections were held several weeks early on November 23, 2020. Although this election was moved farther ahead than usual, it offered the added benefit of a smoother transition between the interchanging exec-

utive boards. Led by the newly elected Noble Ruler Griffin Headley, the 2021 executive board will consist of VNR-Recruitment Collin Bays, VNR-Membership Development Connor Brickley, VNR-Alumni Relations Zachary Mickelson, VNR-Finance Baxter Peetz, VNR-Planning Hayden Funk, VNR-Operations Ryan Kahlscheuer, VNR-Scholarship Mason Kruse, VNR-Activities Jayson Long, VNR-Public Relations Blake Gieck, and VNR-Provisions Casey Clark & Dylan Herbrand. At this time, many of these newly elected members plan to strengthen their leadership skills and represent our chapter at the 2021 leadership conference, which will be held virtually this upcoming February. I am personally very optimistic and proud of this newly elected executive board. I am certain that they will continue to make strong headway in the development of our chapter and continue to grow Beta Gamma in a strong and positive direction.

As this semester and my term as Noble Ruler comes to an end, I am very proud of our chapter's achievements, and all that my fellow executive board members have accomplished. In addition to our consistent scholastic and service achievements, we have made many strides in becoming increasingly involved with our own alumni. Specifically, this past year has been very beneficial in bridging communication between the undergraduates, Beta Gama Alumni Board, and many other alumni. My hope is that the dedication within the future chapter will continue to develop these relationships and strengthen the fraternity because of it.

As a new year begins, I hope everyone has a safe road ahead of them. For the many reasons to be proud of our current and upcoming brothers, I hope everyone can find the time to reach out and seek a new way to become involved. May we continue to strengthen the brotherhood, encouragement, and many bonds and memories which have made this a lifelong organization for us all. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us, and feel free to stop in and visit your brothers here at 845 West Madison!

Newly Elected Officer Team

Noble Ruler: Griffin Headley

VNR-Recruitment: Collin Bays

VNR-Membership Development: Connor Brickley

VNR-Alumni Relations: Zachary Mickelson

VNR-Finance: Baxter Peetz

VNR-Planning: Hayden Funk

VNR-Operations: Ryan Kalscheuer

VNR-Scholarship: Mason Kruse

VNR-Activities: Jay Long

VNR-Public Relations: Blake Gieck

VNR-Provisions: Casey Clark & Dylan Herbrand

ANNUAL MEETING - MARCH 27, 2021

This year the annual meeting will be held via Zoom. Please keep an eye on your email inbox for an invitation. If we do not have your email address or to confirm please send it to Chuck Miller at cmiller4424@gmail.com.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Jay long

Hometown: Ashton Illinois

Major: Agribusiness with an emphasis on farm

management

Career Goals: Work in sales and agronomy sales

Hobbies: showing pigs and golfing



Gavin Lankey

Hometown: Sauk City, Wisconsin

Major: Junior studying Criminal Justice and History Career Goals: Work for a federal law enforcement

agency

Hobbies: Traveling, Hunting, Fishing



Dylan Herbrand

Hometown: Sauk City WI

Major: Agribusiness with an emphasis in agriculture

technology

Career goals: Work in the agriculture field

Hobbies: hunting fishing farming



Lucas Boomgarden

Hometown: Orangeville, Illinois

Major: Junior studying Agriculture Engineering and

Technology

Career Goals: Work in the agriculture field

Hobbies: Working in his family farm and the outdoors



Mason Kruse

Hometown: Earlville Iowa

Major: Ag business

Career Goals: Become an ag loan officer and eventu-

ally comeback to his family's farm

Hobbies: Farming goats, helping on family farm and

playing madden.



Jake Mathias

Hometown: Stoughton, Wisconsin Major: Junior studying Agri business Career Goals: Work in precision ag

Hobbies: Hunting, working, and hanging out with

friends

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATING SENIORS



Mason Geary

Hometown: Viola, Wisconsin

Current employment: Product development engineer

at Sewer Equipment in Dixon, IL.



Sam Pentinmacki

Hometown: Deerfield, Wisconsin

Current employment: Contree Sprayer and Equipment

company in Beaver Dam, Wisconsin

BETA GAMMA SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS - PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING

To donate by check please send your payment to:

Jordan Alf, Treasurer

5210 N Grand Videre Dr

Janesville, WI 53548

Indicate either Beta Gamma Fund or Dennis Valstad Memorial Fund in the memo line on your check

To Donate Online please go to:

www.alphagammarho.org/donate

At Donation Type chose Scholarship Funds then at Investing In chose either Beta Gamma or Dennis Valstad Memorial Endowment Fund

Thank you for considering a donation to one of our newly established scholarship funds. The Beta Gamma Fund scholarships will be used to provide scholarships for new member recruitment, attend AGR leadership conferences, attend AGR recruitment school, and for outstanding scholarship achievement. The Dennis Valstad Fund will be used for a brother demonstrating financial need. All donations will count toward your lifetime giving to the Beta Gamma Chapter.

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

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BETA GAMMA CHAPTER CRESCENT

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AUTO CHARLES MILLER 1119 CASWELL ST FORT ATKINSON WI 53538-1309

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