



GAMMA UPDATE

Gamma Chapter of Alpha Gamma Sigma • Fall 2018



GAMMA CHAPTER ANNOUNCES \$2.5 MILLION CAMPAIGN TO UPDATE CHAPTER HOUSE

More Than \$1.2 Million Already Committed by Generous Alumni

It is an honor to address you as we begin a rebuilding campaign for the ΑΓΣ Gamma Chapter at UNL. I have fond memories of the beginnings of this chapter starting with a small group of young men originating from the Ag Men's Club.

Our goal was to build a fraternal organization that would focus primarily on academics. Five of our first graduating class were ranked in the top 10 of the college for GPA. The Gamma Chapter was installed in the fall of 1953, my senior year. Our first residence was in a large family home at 3240 Holdrege Street until the opportunity arose to buy a recently vacated fraternity house at 4001 Holdrege Street, the site of the current house.

Most of the founding members came from family farm operations and some returned from the Korean War eager to receive a college education. This speaks well of the membership of ΑΓΣ; committed young men using their intellect and will to achieve the best possible station in life as agricultural producers, engineers, chemists, and financiers in this great state and country of tremendous opportunity.

Many friendships and relationships were forged over the years through this fraternal brotherhood; we share a common bond from membership through ΑΓΣ. It is inspiring to witness the involvement and dedication of the current membership as they become the next generation of leaders. It is my hope that this fraternity will continue to make far-reaching, positive contributions to this country by valuing its members, this university, this state and all its resources.

Today, we have an incredible opportunity to build on our recent success and our storied history. I am pleased to announce *Building the Future of Gamma Chapter: The Campaign for Alpha Gamma Sigma*. This capital campaign will allow us to build a new house, or completely renovate our chapter house, making it fit the needs of the student of today and tomorrow while preserving our culture and values in which we stand for. We are behind the curve on this as FarmHouse, Alpha Gamma Rho, and 10 other fraternities at UNL have already begun or completed renovations and very successful capital campaigns. I encourage each of you to think back to your ΑΓΣ experience and pay it forward to help this cam-

paign be successful. The foundation we established in 1953 will benefit the future of ΑΓΣ and help us compete as a top-tier fraternity at UNL.

I'm confident we can expect great things of our fundraising campaign, but we will only achieve our vision if we work together to make this project a reality. Our fundraising goal is \$2.5 million and we currently have secured more than \$1.2 million in pledges from 66 generous alumni. In the coming weeks, you will receive additional information detailing the project and how to join your brothers by supporting this important initiative. Please join me in setting ΑΓΣ up for success at UNL by participating in this campaign.



Fraternally,

Cap

Senator M.L. "Cap" Dierks '53
(402) 626-7200
mldierks@gpcom.net



Thank You for Leading the Way!

We are deeply grateful to the following brothers for committing \$1,206,770 to *Building the Future of Gamma Chapter: The Campaign for Alpha Gamma Sigma*. These alumni recognize the importance of ensuring the future of our Alpha Gamma Sigma chapter and have demonstrated a sense of gratitude for their personal experience. All donors contributing a minimum of \$5,000 to the campaign, over a five-year period, will be recognized on a plaque prominently displayed in the renovated chapter house. If an error has been made in recording your gift, or your name has been mistakenly omitted or listed improperly, we sincerely apologize. Please contact our campaign coordinator at (785) 843-1661 so we may make a correction.

1953 Founders Society
(\$500,000 and above)

- Kevin T. Lytle '85, Gamma 484
- Mike Miller '86, Gamma 502
- Bill J. Munn '87, Gamma 520
- Brase Family Gift
 - Mark D. Brase '87, Gamma 528
 - Mitch Brase '94, Gamma 654
- Chris P. Manske '96, Gamma 687

Merton L. "Cap" Dierks Society
(\$250,000 to \$499,999)

Gold Brotherhood Society
(\$10,000 to \$24,999)

- Donald C. Meiergerd '59, Gamma 119
- Wayne E. Hake '65, Gamma 168
- Lyle Kinley Jr. '75, Gamma 313
- Karna and Dwight J. Dam '80, Gamma 401
- Gary Kahle '84, Gamma 482
- Brad Kresak '85, Gamma 486
- Greg Hoegermeyer '87, Gamma 517
- Doug W. Kriete '88, Gamma 540
- Corey Huck '88, Gamma 547
- Brian Nedrow '89, Gamma 556
- Roubal Family
 - Tony Roubal '05, Gamma 849
 - Zane Roubal '08, Gamma 912
 - Clay Roubal '11, Gamma 946

Gamma Chapter Principles Society
(\$100,000 to \$249,999)

- Active Gamma Chapter
- Keith Molzer '86, Gamma 511
- Shane Belohrad '87, Gamma 515
- Gerard J. Keating '82, Gamma 437

Benefactor Society
(\$50,000 to \$99,999)

- Virginia and Thomas Schwab '57, Gamma 76
- Gestrung Family Gift
 - Rick Gestrung '83, Gamma 450
 - Bob E. Gestrung '85, Gamma 497
- Kevin Yost '84, Gamma 464
- John Bergmeyer '85, Gamma 485
- Scott Bunz '89, Gamma 565

Gamma Chapter Executive Society
(\$25,000 to \$49,999)

- Eli L. Thomssen '56, Gamma 77
- Edward Banning '59, Gamma 95
- Milvern "Mel" Noffke '59, Gamma 99
- Wayne Wood '67, Gamma 195
- Jill and Matt Keating '80, Gamma 416

- Galen Kuska '78, Gamma 363
- Charles R. Peterson Jr. '79, Gamma 380
- D. Kent Thompson '83, Gamma 454
- Dr. Shawn Semin '88, Gamma 535
- Corey Bergt '88, Gamma 535
- Cary L. Sandell '88, Gamma 541
- John S. Goertzen '88, Gamma 553
- Chris A. Wormuth '89, Gamma 559
- Pat L. Kroese '89, Gamma 564
- Mark Frank '90, Gamma 581
- Joel Clements '97, Gamma 699
- Jared Hutchens '00, Gamma 773
- Chelsea and Lane Merz '08, Gamma 905

Bronze Brotherhood Society
(\$1,000 to \$4,999)

- Dierks Family Gift
 - In honor of Senator M. L. "Cap" Dierks '53, Gamma 2
- Dale G. Anderson, Ph.D. '54, Gamma 30
- Larry M. Lutz '56, Gamma 70
- James P. Eriksen '57, Gamma 73
- Keith Niemann '67, Gamma 190
- Gregerson Family Gift
 - Tammy and Tim Gregerson '84, Gamma 469
 - Garret Gregerson '13, Gamma 978
- Matt Bergmeyer '87, Gamma 523
- Mike Zalman '87, Gamma 524

CAMPAIGN STATUS
AT-A-GLANCE
As of November 27, 2018

Campaign Goal:
\$2.5 Million

Total Commitments:
\$1,206,770

Total Contributors:
66

- Troy Bredenkamp '87, Gamma 530
- Michael Flyr '01, Gamma 795
- Trevor Watson '07, Gamma 888
- Amanda and Adam Brown '07, Gamma 892
- Benson Wallace '08, Gamma 908
- Logan Schweitzer '08, Gamma 913
- Jeremy Schrieber '09, Gamma 898



Recruitment Chairmen Jake Judge '17 and Nolan Casey '16 welcomed 23 new men into our fraternity this fall.

ΑΓΣ IS POISED FOR A YEAR OF SUCCESS

Active Members Show Strength in All Areas on Campus

The men of Alpha Gamma Sigma are energized for another successful school year. Exceptional leadership, innovative perspectives, and motivated members continue to drive our status on campus.

GROWING BROTHERHOOD

This fall, we welcomed 23 new men into Alpha Gamma Sigma. These men demonstrate the qualities of an ΑΓΣ Man: scholarship, leadership, and character. One of our recruitment chairmen, **Jake Judge '17**, commented, "I am extremely excited to see what this new member class will do for our chapter. They are a group of very talented individuals."



SHANE BELOHRAD '87 SETS THE BAR FOR BUILDING THE FUTURE OF GAMMA CHAPTER

Shane Belohrad '87 knew coming in to college that he wanted to pursue a degree in agriculture. Having fostered friendships with current members of Alpha Gamma Sigma, and knowing that other friends of his were interested in joining, the decision to become a member of Gamma Chapter seemed to be an easy one. "My life at ΑΓΣ was great because I was surrounded by people with similar interests, primarily agriculture. I knew I wanted to continue my post-graduate career in agriculture, so living and working alongside like-minded men everyday only helped solidify that goal."

ΑΓΣ not only strengthened Shane's relationships, but created new ones. Something that he enjoyed about ΑΓΣ was that every semester, it was required that everybody change roommates, which allowed them to get to know brothers he might not have otherwise. "The mandatory roommate switch forced us out of our comfort zones and allowed us to appreciate our differences, celebrate our similarities, and work through problems. I didn't have brothers growing up, and one of my greatest appreciations of the fraternity is that I immediately had 70-plus brothers."

After graduating, Shane served on Gamma Chapter's alumni board as the risk management advisor. Eventually, his family life took him away from the role and he wasn't at the house much, but he made a point to visit as often as possible during trips back to campus, and outsider's perspective gave Shane a better view of a facility in need of updating. "Our house served us well for many years, but it was clear we were in need of a better home for our members moving forward. Now that we're in the midst of a campaign to update the house, it's important for alumni to look at their time at ΑΓΣ and focus on what they got out of their experience. I give credit for many of



my life's successes to ΑΓΣ and the lessons I learned there. My commitment is my way of paying back and paying it forward. I hope this campaign not only creates a better home for future ΑΓΣ members at UNL, but develops a solid foundation for leaders on campus and in the agricultural world moving forward.

"I was very fortunate that the people in the house when I was an undergraduate were great leaders. Since graduation, I've seen the leadership ebb and flow, as it does in all organizations, but as of late I'm pleased to see the group we have maintaining that commitment to the fraternity and to campus. I can only hope we solidify that moving forward. Alumni can do their part to lead by example, and the best way to do that now is to focus on the campaign. We have a five-year time frame to pay our pledges, so push yourself and think how important the fraternity was in your formation as a young adult as you make a commitment. Remember, those who build our house in the '70s used a whole lot of fortitude to make it happen.

It's time for us to use the same fortitude and push this campaign across the goal line."

Shane and his wife, Kelli, live in Omaha, and have two children, Lindsay, a sophomore at TCU, and Layton, a high school senior. Shane works at Arthur J. Gallagher insuring agribusiness operations throughout the Midwest. He has worked in the insurance industry for the last 22 years. Prior to that, he worked for the Nebraska Cattleman's Association as director of membership services. When he's off the clock, Shane enjoys learning about one of his passions: wine. He and Kelli regularly take trips to California wine country with friends to explore the beautiful countryside and enjoy the local flavor. You can get in touch with Shane at shane_belohrad@ajg.com.

ACADEMICS REMAIN TOP PRIORITY

Academics continue to be a focus as we strive toward becoming one of the top-performing chapters on campus. Our spring 2018 GPA ranked us 10th out of 25 Interfraternity Council chapters, remaining above the Greek male average GPA. Scholarship Chairman **Micah Most '17** shared, "With the introduction of structured academic success planning this fall, I hope to establish a scholarship program that will provide consistency and promote positive growth."

SUCCESSFUL PARENT'S DAY FUNDRAISERS

Last April, we held a Parent's Day event that included a fundraising auction benefitting our Mom's Club, organized by **Jared Stauffer '16**. Parents of actives are kind enough to bring auction items to fund the Mom's Club, who support

the chapter tremendously. Brother Stauffer comments, "As the chapter's secretary, one of my duties is to schedule brotherhood events. Actives have expressed interest in a Dad's Day golf outing to celebrate brotherhood and family."

SAVE THE DATE FOR RED ROSE 2019

Red Rose 2018 was a huge success. **Justin Henry '16** said, "We hosted over 250 alumni, actives, and dates at the Ridnour Room in downtown Lincoln. Thank you to all who attended." **Red Rose 2019 will be hosted on March 2, 2019, at the Graduate Hotel.** We look forward to reconnecting with our alumni at our next Red Rose. Thank you to all of the alumni that attended the alumni golf outing in August.

ΑΓΣ GIVES BACK

The active chapter had a great time at our annual

philanthropy, Balloon Bash, in September. Proceeds benefited the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. Beyond raising philanthropic dollars, we are always prepared help the ECCO Neighborhood and greater Lincoln community through various service projects such as Dance Marathon, The Big Event, and The People's City Mission.

We celebrate many of these successes because of the dedicated brothers before us. We are thankful for the rich history of our chapter, and we invite all alumni to visit our house and attend a chapter dinner and meeting beginning at 5:30 p.m. each Monday.



Fraternally,
Trevor Spath '15
2017-18 Chapter President



GAMMA UPDATE

Oscar E. Blomstedt '54 lives in Lincoln, Neb., and turned 90 in June 2017. His wife, Marcia, passed away in February 2017. Oscar goes to senior exercise during the week to keep up his strength. He also tries to walk a mile a day. He enjoys church and bible studies, but his main hobby is his baritone ukulele and chromatic harmonicas, which he likes to play for others. E-mail: oblomstedt@gmail.com

Kevin Meyer '93 and his wife, Dee Dee, live in Fayetteville, Ark. They have two children, Kenedee and Levi. Kevin works for Tyson Foods as manager for the Walmart Case Ready beef business. He is an avid Husker fan and attends a lot of football games. His other hobbies include running marathons, triathlons, and off-road biking. E-mail: kevinmeyer24@gmail.com

Gamma Chapter of Alpha Gamma Sigma
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
P.O. Box 442100
Lawrence, KS 66044-2100

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Big congrats to Gage Hoegermeyer '15 as NU's Homecoming king. He and senior Monica Rogers were crowned king and queen at UNL's Homecoming celebration on September 29. (Photo provided by Lincoln Journal Star)



Some of the active body that attended the second event of this year's alumni reunion. Pictured from left: Eli Thomssen '56, Gage Hoegermeyer '15, Jack Spilker '16, Garret Gregorson '13, Riley Kamphaus '16, Logan Miller '15, Trevor Spath '15, Nic Taylor '16, and Matt Morton '16.



Men of AGΣ at the Beaver Lake rush event.

Communication support and assistance provided by Pennington & Company.

Attention: This newsletter is intended for alumni and parents. If your son is still attending the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, he will receive a copy at the chapter house. If he has graduated, please send us his permanent address. Thank you.

2017-18 CHAPTER OFFICERS

President
Trevor Spath '15
Eagle, Neb.
402-802-0382
president@agsunl.org

Vice President
Kieran Logan '16
Tucson, Ariz.

Secretary
Jaret Stauffer '16
Milford, Neb.

Treasurer
Alex Czarnick '16
Hershey, Neb.

Fraternity Educator
Carson Hicks '16
De Witt, Neb.

Rush Chairmen
Nolan Casey '16
Laurel, Neb.
402-518-0662
rush@agsunl.org

Jake Judge '17
West Holt, Neb.
402-340-4189
rush@agsunl.org

Warden
Sam Prorok '16
Marshall, Minn.

Scholarship Chairman
Micah Most '17
Ogallala, Neb.

Social Chairman
Evan Ronne '16
York, Neb.

Alumni Relations Chairman
Justin Henry '16
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Public Relations Chairman
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Risk Management Chairman
Riley Kamphaus '16
Seward, Neb.