



GAMMA UPDATE

Gamma Chapter of Alpha Gamma Sigma • Fall 2023

WHAT IS BROTHERHOOD?

Reflecting on Fraternal Values

As I awakened to a new day recently, a text popped up from a group of brothers I regularly communicate with. It contained a picture of the day we laid **Daryl Warday '86, F510** to rest.

Ten years have passed, and it seemed appropriate to share about it in this *Gamma Update*. We celebrate Daryl when we walk through the brotherhood room named after him, so I wanted to begin this letter with a reminder of what makes our brotherhood special: each of us and our affiliation with the fraternity.

THE BROTHERHOOD TODAY

Now let's celebrate some great accomplishments of the active chapter:

- Achieving a GPA of 3.41 for the spring 2023 semester.
- Recruiting 31 talented and gifted new members this summer.
- Establishing a full chapter with 73 in-house and 20 out-of-house members.

The talents within the walls of Gamma Chapter are something to behold. I encourage all alumni to find a way to engage with this impressive group. **Trevor Spath '15, F1013** has done an excellent job creating the Monday Meeting Alumni Speaker Series. It provides the opportunity for alumni to join the men for dinner and address one of the 13 Principles while sharing memories from their active years.

The positive response from actives confirms how much they value hearing from our alumni.

If you are interested in participating, please reach out to Trevor at trev.spath@gmail.com or (402) 802-0382.

TOMORROW'S LEADERS

It was my pleasure to accompany six collegians to the AGS National Conclave at Delta Chapter (Tennessee Tech) on August 4-5. Our men were impressive in sharing ideas with other chapters in areas including recruitment, alumni interaction, philanthropy, and scholarship.

Each member in attendance applied for and was awarded a scholarship from Gamma Foundation to offset the attendance cost. Thank you so much to those alumni who have contributed to the Foundation and continue to do so.

ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

The AGS Big Red Tailgate on September 16 welcomed more than 250 alumni, actives, parents, and guests. Planned by **Mike Underwood '90, F588**, it occurred prior to the Husker Football victory over Northern Illinois.

Besides great food and drink, attendees enjoyed the opportunity to visit with and hear from brothers comprising many generations. Seventy years of AGS at UNL is something to be very proud of, and the day was filled with fun and laughter. If you couldn't make it, hopefully you can attend next year. Pictures from the 2023 reunion have been uploaded to the AGS website, and can be viewed using this link, agsunl.org/alumni/big-red-tailgate-2023.html.

PLANNING OUR FUTURE

A joint meeting of the AGS Gamma Foundation Board and Alumni Association Board was held the morning of the Big Red Tailgate. It provided an opportunity to hear from **Rich Katt '71, F255** and **Rick Gestring '83, F450** regarding the progress of the *Aspire* program. The opportunity to provide career development for our members throughout their college years is paramount for the upward trajectory of the chapter.

Discussion was held regarding a formal communications program for active and alumni members. Lastly, a conversation on the financials of the active chapter, Alumni Association, and Gamma Foundation was held to ensure board members had a solid understanding of positions as well as plans for the next 4-10 years of how to ensure the condition of our new facility and support the actives.

I want to thank those who serve on the Alumni Association and Gamma Foundation Board. Alumni involvement helps ensure a successful active chapter. As I glanced around the meeting that morning and at those in attendance at the Big Red Tailgate, it was rewarding to know I'm a small part of something much bigger and surrounded by talented and caring people. Let's never lose that quality of AGS men. Thank you for the opportunity to be one of you.

Fraternally,
Shane Belohrad '87, F515
shane_belohrad@ajg.com

VIEW MORE BRT PHOTOS AT AGSUNL.ORG!



Gamma brothers attend the funeral service for Daryl Warday '86, F510 in 2013.



From left: Braden Benes '22, F1173 and Garrett Kriete '21, F1140 present Eli Thomsson '56, F77 with the Gamma Man of the Year Award for his service to Gamma Chapter.



From left: Kirk Holtmeier '92, F623, Aaron Hirschfeld '92, F621 (back to camera), and Kevin Wemhoff '92, F624 reconnect at the Big Red Tailgate.



Chapter Officers

President
Garrett Kriete '21, Γ1140

Vice President
Zane Rikli '20, Γ1120

Secretary
Brett Heinrich '21, Γ1157

Treasurer
Brayden Hill '21, Γ1152

Fraternity Educator
Jackson Henry '21, Γ1138

Recruitment Chairmen
Logan Lloyd '21, Γ1141
(402) 350-4414
loganlloyd05@gmail.com

Sam Vonsprecklesen '21, Γ1150
(402) 984-0196
svons02@gmail.com

House Manager
Elijah Sutton '21, Γ1159

Scholarship Chairman
Michael Bequette '22, Γ1163

Social Chairman
Maddox Baack '22, Γ1174

Alumni Relations Chairman
Braden Benes '22, Γ1173

Public Relations Chairman
Harrison Boesch '21, Γ1148

Risk Management Chairman
Grant Lewandowski '22, Γ1165



Brian with his family.

THE RIGHT PLACE FOR ME

Brian Wieman '95, Γ674 Values His AGS Brotherhood

From Husker games to Hurricane, the undergraduate AGS experience has it all. When **Brian Wieman '95, Γ674** thinks back to his college days in Gamma Chapter, he is grateful for the unforgettable brotherhood that served him well leading into life beyond college.

Becoming a Brother

"I was looking for an opportunity to be more involved," Brian said, recalling his freshman dorm experience. By sophomore year, he was ready for recruitment and glad to find like-minded young men through Alpha Gamma Sigma.

"MY TIME IN AGS SERVED ME VERY WELL IN SO MANY DIFFERENT WAYS AND GAVE ME THE BEST MEMORIES OF MY COLLEGE YEARS."

Brian took the chance to serve Gamma Chapter as recruitment chairman, working to grow the brotherhood while refining his own presentation and sales skills. Brian's time in AGS gave him a foundation of professionalism as he learned how to run meetings, conduct interviews, and build his résumé.

Career Experiences

After college, Brian found opportunities in the agribusiness industry with employers like Bayer CropScience, Cargill, and Helena AgriEnterprises. He considers joining his family farming operation as the highlight of his career.

"It's also been really fun to meet new, younger people in my industry and learn that they are alumni as well," Brian said about fellow brothers he's met. He urges undergraduates to utilize the AGS network for advice and connections while working hard to stand out in such a competitive field.

Maintaining Connections

Brian was glad to assist with Gamma Chapter's recent fundraising efforts, and he tries to stay involved with the chapter when possible. Alongside career networking, Brian enjoyed reconnecting with alumni through fundraising while maintaining many fraternal bonds since college.

Brian has been married to his wife, Stephanie, since 1999. They have three teenage children of their own and a young son they adopted after two years of foster care. The Wieman family enjoys traveling and spending time together at the lake. You can connect with Brian at brianwieman@yahoo.com.



Chapter Goals

Achieve a fall semester GPA of **3.45**

Host one *fall philanthropy event* and one *spring philanthropy event* to benefit multiple sclerosis

Activate all **31 new members**

We asked alumni:

What comes to mind when you think about Gamma?

BROTHERHOOD FRIENDSHIP • FUN

FRATERNITY | GREAT HOUSE | GREAT BROTHERS | LEADERSHIP
LIFELONG CONNECTIONS | RELATIONSHIPS | COMMUNITY



MAINTAINING POSITIVE MOMENTUM

Recent Growth and Academic Success

As the fall semester is in full swing, the men of AGS are excited for the new school year. Our recruitment team, **Logan Lloyd '21, Γ1141** and **Sam Vonsprecklesen '21, Γ1150**, did an excellent job with the new pledge class. With a whole house effort, we were able to recruit 31 new members.

FOCUSING ON ACADEMICS

Scholarship Chairman **Michael Bequette '22, Γ1163** is doing a great job pushing our men to make sure we succeed in the classroom. We are striving for a higher GPA this semester to become one of the top fraternities in academics. Our guys have been putting in countless hours outside of class to ensure we can crush our goal with a GPA of 3.45.

COMMUNITY EFFORTS

We hosted our Picnic at the Pi philanthropy event in September with Alpha Omicron Pi. The event had great attendance as we raised money for multiple sclerosis research.



New Gamma Chapter members participate in bonding activities during a two-day retreat.



Brothers had a great time at the Big Red Tailgate. Pictured from left: Boston Reeves '22, Γ1191, Ross Hebda '21, Γ1161, Logan Anderson '19, Γ1091, and Logan Lloyd '21, Γ1141.



AGS members at UNL Dance Marathon's annual HuskerThon event celebrate raising over \$100,000 for Children's Hospital this past year.

We continue to encourage members to join organizations like NHRI, Mortarboard, and IFC, all of which we're involved in currently.

ALUMNI INFLUENCE

Gamma Chapter can't thank our alumni enough for the support and guidance they have provided us over the past years. We want to thank all the alumni who continue to push Alpha Gamma Sigma in the right direction as we move forward.

The fraternity continues to strive for the best by building up members within our organization. Our ultimate goal is to prepare our members for life and make them better men leaving the chapter than they were coming in.

Fraternally,
Garrett Kreite '21, Γ1140
Chapter President

WELCOME, NEW BROTHERS

Hear why they joined

Justin Barbee
Hastings, Neb.
Agricultural
Economics

Spencer Bartek
Gretna, Neb.
Agricultural
Engineering

Tucker Bergen
Henderson, Neb.
Agribusiness

Barydon Binger
Hay Springs, Neb.
Agronomy

Alex Boudreau
Minden, Neb.
CASNR General

Caleb Brunside
Stapleton, Neb.
Agribusiness

Henry Coleman
Murdock, Neb.
Agricultural
Engineering

Wyatt Ehlers
Chambers, Neb.
Agribusiness

Maverick Elser
Sibley, Iowa
Biochemistry

Zach Gaffney
Broken Bow, Neb.
Agricultural
Engineering

"I saw the positive atmosphere between the brothers and the strong history of the fraternity."

Ethan Golda
Springfield, Neb.
Construction
Management

"To make connections and build relationships with people who share the same interests as me. I felt that AGS had the right atmosphere where I could excel academically while building lasting relationships."

Evan Hartman
Fremont, Neb.
Animal Science

Carter Holtmeier
Plymouth, Neb.
Agricultural
Economics

Mason Knudsen
Ogallala, Neb.
Agribusiness

Mason Mitchell
Atkinson, Neb.
Agribusiness

Max Mueller
Ogallala, Neb.
Agricultural Systems
Technology

Thomas Neal
Lincoln, Neb.
Biology

Grant Nielson
Central City, Neb.
Biochemistry

Wyatt Panko
Henderson, Neb.
Agricultural Systems
Technology

Trevor Parde
Adams, Neb.
Animal Science

Trev Peters
Henderson, Neb.
Agribusiness

Storm Peterson
Grant, Neb.
Animal Science

Nathan Reynolds
Broken Bow, Neb.
Agribusiness

Luke Richards
Oakland, Neb.
Agribusiness

"The quality of leadership and involvement that the members possess. I am looking forward to the personal and career connections I am going to make."

Forest Rutledge
Yuma, Colo.
Animal Science

Braden Rutt
Hastings, Neb.
Construction
Management

Cole Stokey
Ogallala, Neb.
Nutrition and Health
Sciences

Connor Wells
Broken Bow, Neb.
Agribusiness

Clay Witthuhn
Arnold, Neb.
Pre-Vet

Thatcher Zink
Tekamah, Neb.
Actuarial Science

Dalton Zulkowski
Leigh, Neb.
Agribusiness

UNLOCK NEW CONNECTIONS



GAMMA UPDATE

Follow AGS on LinkedIn

Our undergraduates have a goal to establish better connections with alumni to learn about their paths after graduating. This can involve careers, family, volunteering, hobbies, and more.

A great way to achieve this goal is through LinkedIn. You may already be using LinkedIn, but if you aren't, we ask you to join and engage with our group.

Please follow the Gamma Chapter page at [linkedin.com/company/alpha-gamma-sigma-unl](https://www.linkedin.com/company/alpha-gamma-sigma-unl). This presents an opportunity to network and share information with undergraduates and fellow AGS alumni.

We encourage you to interact on our page with posts like job and internship openings, educational content, career advice, and more. Undergraduates will be posting about scholarships, Gamma Chapter's benefits, and their college experiences.

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SEE INSIDE FOR MORE ALUMNI UPDATES AND PHOTOS!

ALUMNI UPDATE

Eli Thomssen '56, Γ77 served on the AGS Building Campaign Board and is currently on the AGS Gamma Chapter Foundation Board. Eli is retired but remains involved with startup companies focused on developing new human health products. Eli lives in Kalamazoo, Mich. Email: elthomssen@gmail.com

Virgil Wagner '61, Γ114 spends summers in Fremont, Neb., and winter in Mesa, Ariz. Virgil enjoys golf, Bible studies, farming, travel, family, and friends. Email: vwagner1959@gmail.com

Marv Jahde '68, Γ209 is enjoying retirement after more than 50 years in the veterinary pharmaceutical industry. Marv lives in Overland Park, Kan. Email: marvjd@kc.rr.com

Philip Simonsen '77, Γ346 has been farming since 1978 and has also owned a bowling alley and fast-food restaurant over the years. Philip lives in Superior, Neb. Email: philsimonsen@icloud.com

Andrew Schaaf '98, Γ732 is a board member for the National Nuclear Science and History Museum. Andrew resides in Austin, Texas. Email: andrewpschaaf@gmail.com

Logan Schweitzer '08, Γ913 married his wife in June. They recently purchased their first home in Bennington, Neb. Email: loganschweitzer@gmail.com

Hayden Wall '18, Γ1085 left Nebraska in August 2022 to pursue a master's degree in fisheries and natural resource studies. He is researching brown trout movement in the Little Red River and hopes to finish his thesis by December 2024. Email: hayden.wall60@gmail.com

CHAPTER ETERNAL

Stanley Eberspacher '53, Γ3
August 31, 2023

James Svoboda '54, Γ37
February 19, 2023

Elwin Mosier '56, Γ60
September 9, 2021

Loyal Quandt '56, Γ72
August 13, 2023

What are your favorite memories from living at the chapter house and/or spending time with brothers at UNL?

"Sleeping in the attic of the chapter house in the middle of winter."

Clarence Meiergerd '69, Γ222

"Watching the original 4001 Holdredge house being torn down, making way for the new house."

Dale Ekart '70, Γ227

"Our formals, getaways together, and Monday nights. Times when it was just us."

Erich Tiemann '97, Γ714

What keeps you connected to AGS?

"I was president of the alumni when we built the house at 4001 Holdrege. Raising funds and coordinating activities was a group effort but gratifying."

Virgil Wagner '61, Γ114

"Our grip; as I see other alumni and even younger members I haven't met, shaking hands and knowing you're with a brother."

Erich Tiemann '97, Γ714