



GAMMA UPDATE

Gamma Chapter of Alpha Gamma Sigma • Spring 2023

FOREVER SERVING OUR BROTHERS

Foundation and Trustees Work to Protect Our Home

As you read this article, the spring semester at 3455 Holdrege Street will either be coming to an end or will have just concluded. What defines a successful academic year? That depends if you are asking the members, their parents, or Mom Pat and Dad John. Your Alumni Boards would view the prior nine months as very successful. There are many reasons for the chapter's success over that time frame, but we would point to the following:

- A commitment from the senior class to be involved with the fraternity, even though most of those members live out-of-house.
- A desire to exceed the fraternity GPA goal set at the beginning of the fall semester centered on attending classes, maintaining good study habits, and taking advantage of the assets of the new chapter house.
- The depth of quality character in the new member class, which challenges all members to better themselves while also helping one another improve. This was the first class to utilize the *Aspire* program, and the feedback gained from this class is essential to further program development for all members.
- A dedicated active executive team, which oversees the daily operations of the fraternity, including an annual budget of over \$900,000.

What is the focus of the Alumni Board as we head into summer? The following items top the list:

- First and foremost, ensuring the continued success of Gamma Chapter by assisting

Sam VonSpreckelsen '21, Γ1150 and **Logan Lloyd '21, Γ1141** with securing a high-quality new member class. This isn't just a board topic; it should be a focus for all alumni.

- Continued mentoring of the active executive team, which began with a very productive active executive Alumni Board retreat in February.
- Further establishment of an "Internship and Employment" platform, which allows Gamma alumni to directly share employment opportunities with members.
- Working with the Gamma Foundation board to provide timely information to all alumni regarding how the Alumni Association and Gamma Foundation continue to carry out their mission through the financial support of our alumni.

Of special note is a topic affecting the entire Greek system at UNL and Nebraska Wesleyan. The Lancaster County Assessor last reviewed property valuations of fraternities and sororities in 2015. That changed in 2022, and they recently released their "preliminary" valuations. The effect on the "newer" fraternities is alarming. The valuation for AGS increased from \$2.7 million to \$4 million—which equates to an additional \$24,000 of property tax (\$51,000 to \$75,000). We met with the assessor to contest and presented various restrictions that we believe challenge the value.

While our valuation increase (48%) is extremely challenging and would result in raising the active chapter's rent to offset (equating to \$350/member), the increases to the other east campus fraternities were astounding.

AGR and FarmHouse have also met with the assessor to protest the preliminary valuations, and once we all learn of our final valuations, we plan to reconnect and possibly hire legal counsel. We also plan to work alongside IFC to file a protest on behalf of all fraternities and sororities with the County Clerk (the filing deadline is June 30).

We would like to thank the following alumni for attending the Monday night dinner and meeting to share their AGS and college experiences as well answer questions regarding their careers: **Taylor Collins '11, Γ949; Gage Hoegermeyer '15, Γ1004; Austin Schweitzer '00, Γ756; Trevor Spath '15, Γ1013; John Bergmeyer '85, Γ485; Boyd Stuhr '53, Γ21; Gerard Keating '82, Γ437; Logan Schweitzer '08, Γ913; Matt Morton '16, Γ1030; Scott Heinrich '90, Γ573; Trey Morgensen '13, Γ982; and Landon Rhodes '11, Γ948.**

As we close this update, please don't hesitate to reach out with questions. If you're interested in becoming more involved, whether by serving on either board or addressing the active chapter during a Monday night dinner and meeting, please let us know. We need your participation. Look for additional communications this year and beyond as the Foundation works to raise the funds to carry out our missions. Thank you again for your support, and we hope that you will provide a name or two for potential new members and that we will see you at the fall alumni tailgate event.

Fraternally,
Shane Belohrad '87, Γ515
shane_belohrad@ajg.com



Your Foundation gifts are appreciated!



Donate online at tinyurl.com/AGSGammaFoundation.



Annual Alumni Meeting and Red Rose Formal

Thank you to all who attended the meeting and event!



1. Bennett Perlinger '20, Γ1092 displays his "Triple Crown" award. He is only the third Active member in the history of Gamma Chapter to be so recognized.
2. Shane Belohrad '87, Γ515 speaks about alumni leadership opportunities at the annual Alumni Meeting.
3. Red Rose Formal Award Winners, including Eli Thomssen '56 Γ77 (third from left), recognized as Gamma Man of the Year.
4. Colton Husa '87, Γ1130, winner of the Outstanding Active Award.



View photos from recent alumni events here!

Big Red Tailgate 2022 | tinyurl.com/BigRedTailgate2022Pics

Annual Alumni Meeting and Red Rose Formal 2023 | tinyurl.com/RedRoseAnnualMeeting2023Pics

Brotherhood Is a Group Effort

Alumni Stay in Touch through Annual Pheasant Hunt

Young friendships bound in the Alpha Gamma Sigma brotherhood are worth continuing. For eight years, a group of Gamma brothers has kept in touch through the thrill of the hunt and connecting each January for an annual get-together.

The brothers united in January 2023 for their seventh annual pheasant hunt (with only one year canceled for inclement weather). The event is a group effort, hosted each year in Beatrice, Nebraska, at Cub Creek Hunting—a family business owned and operated by **Troy Cammack '80, Γ408** and his wife, Mary.

"We opened in 2001, looking for something to supplement our farming income; Troy has always been an avid hunter," Mary said. "We enjoy meeting all the different people that hunt with us—some of whom come back each year."

Brothers take turns each year with event planning and organization. This year, **Mike Zalman '87, Γ524** helped to start the event planning while **Dave Hicks '87, Γ519** sponsored their traditional lodging at the Hicks Ranch.



Alumni enjoy food, games, and camaraderie at their annual pheasant hunt.

"We meet at Hicks on the second Saturday of January," Mike said. "We give hugs, high fives, and grip to each brother, drop off our overnight gear, and move on to Cub Creek, where they host us with a great meal before the hunt."

"We do one of our European hunts, which consists of 225 birds released to 16 shooters," Troy explained. "The spots are filled with older AGS alumni to brothers who have just graduated in the past year or two."

After a rewarding hunt, everyone returns to Cub Creek to enjoy desserts and an open bar while the birds are cleaned. The brothers each return home with a dozen or more clean pheasant breasts to enjoy.

"It's always a joy to get together and catch up on our lives, discussing our families and current events as well as reliving the old days," Mike

said. "Sometimes, the original stories magnify themselves with time—and are that much more enjoyable as we age."

"We enjoy having the AGS group out each year," Mary said. "You can see that they have remained in touch as much as possible since graduating from UNL and thoroughly value their fraternity brothers' friendship."

"The bonds of brotherhood last a lifetime," Dave said. "We can see one of our brothers daily, or we could not see one for 30 years—and you pick up right where you left off and love them like you always have."

To learn more about the group or connect with these brothers, you can reach the Cammacks at cammack@diodecom.net, Dave at d.hixhx@gmail.com, or Mike at mzalman@huskerrehab.com.



SUMMER 2023 RECRUITMENT

As we prepare for summer recruitment, we have begun compiling names and finalizing our event schedule. We also have a Google form for anyone to fill out with potential names. You can find this link on our website under the “RUSH 2023” tab in the top-right corner.

We are extremely excited to get to work this summer and recruit the best men across the state; we are confident that this will be a successful summer. As we speak with potential new members, we look forward to expressing our accomplishments as a fraternity. From improving our GPA exponentially this past semester to having the best fraternity house on campus (or the Midwest, I might say), there is plenty of help to allow us to recruit the best of the best.

Recruitment isn't just done by a select few; it takes full-house participation and then some. With that being said, we are happy and fortunate with the support system we have this summer. We now have a recruitment committee of 15 guys through the active chapter, along with our assistant recruitment chairmen, **Truman Knudsen '21, F1162** and **Blake Wyatt '21, F1146**. From the executive board, active chapter, and alumni, we are ready to give it our all this recruitment season.

Our goal is to have at least 20 new men signed by July 1. To put the chapter house at max capacity, we can welcome up to 23 new members (if nothing

RUSH EVENTS THIS SUMMER:

May 27: Parents Day in Lincoln | June 3: Trap Shoot in Aurora | June 17: Golf Day in Elmwood
July 1: Pool Day in Lincoln | July 8: Albion Tanking Trip

CHARACTER, SCHOLARSHIP, AND LEADERSHIP

AGS Plans to Finish Strong

As the spring semester concludes, the men of AGS continue to pursue excellence. Our executive board still has a few big goals to accomplish in 2023. Our scholarship chairman, **Jackson Henry '21, F1138**, is doing a great job helping everyone succeed in the classroom. This is Jackson's second year in the role, and we hope to make as big steps of increasing our GPA as we did last year. With finals right around the corner, we aim to secure a chapter GPA of 3.45 this spring. Our guys have been putting in countless hours outside of class to ensure we can crush our goal.

Our alumni relations chairman, **Braden Benes '22, F1173**, worked hard to put on a successful Red Rose Formal in April, implementing many new ideas to ensure a good turnout. This year, Braden invited a special guest speaker, Aaron Davis, to talk about his career and his past as a former Husker football champion.

Continued on page 4

changes between now and then). With five events between late May and early July, we are confident we can hit this goal. We look forward to carefully choosing the men we think will represent AGS principles in the best manner. Ideally, this new member class will have an average ACT score of 22 or more with a GPA above 3.7 coming into college. All that said, we plan to work hard in May and June so we can finish strong in July.

We would greatly appreciate your assistance with recommendations for new members. We are open to any advice, so please don't hesitate to reach out over the next few months. For updates on recruitment, contact us or visit the Facebook page of actives and alumni for up-to-date information.

Learn more about our recruitment team online at agsunl.org and feel free to contact us with any questions.

Fraternally,
Logan Lloyd '21, F1141
Recruitment Chairman
loganlloyd05@gmail.com
(402) 350-4414

Sam VonSpreckelsen '21, F1150
Recruitment Chairman
svons02@gmail.com
(402) 984-0196



Our very own Brett Heinrich '21, F1157 (second from right) attends AFLV Conference in California with the Interfraternity Council to accelerate ways to improve Greek life at UNL.



Congrats to Jackson Henry '21, F1138, Ross Hebdaw '21, F1161, Garrett Kriete '21, F1140, Logan Anderson '19, F1091, and Kaden Schow '19, F1102, our basketball intramural champions!

Chapter Officers

President
Garrett Kriete '21, F1140

Vice President
Zane Rikli '20, F1120

Secretary
Brett Heinrich '21, F1157

Treasurer
Brayden Hill '21, F1152

Fraternity Educator
Jackson Henry '21, F1138

Recruitment Chairmen
Logan Lloyd '21, F1141
loganlloyd05@gmail.com
(402) 350-4414

Sam Vonsprecklesen '21, F1150
svons02@gmail.com
(402) 984-0196

House Manager
Elijah Sutton '21, F1159

Scholarship Chairman
Michael Bequette '22, F1163

Social Chairman
Maddox Baack '22, F1174

Alumni Relations Chairman
Braden Benes '22, F1173

Public Relations Chairman
Harrison Boesch '21, F1148

Risk Management Chairman
Grant Lewandowski '22, F1165

Recruitment Referrals

If you'd like to refer a potential new member, call or email one of our recruitment chairmen listed above. A simple name, phone number, and where they are from is all we need to contact them for summer recruitment!

CHAPTER GOALS

- 1 Achieve a chapter GPA of 3.45.
- 2 Conduct Big Brother Training.
- 3 Prepare for a successful Rush.

SAVE THE DATE

Big Red Tailgate
Saturday, September 16

Join us as the Huskers take on Northern Illinois! Additional details to follow.

Character, Scholarship, and Leadership

Continued from page 3

A couple of other items that we have planned before the semester winds down include trash cleanup and a philanthropy event, with the funds going to Bryan Cancer Research Center. Our recruitment team is excited to get to work this summer, with hopes to fill the chapter house as we did last year.

Gamma Chapter can't thank our Alumni Board enough for the support and guidance they have provided us over the past few years. Our ultimate goal is to make our members better men and prepare them for life after college.

Fraternally,
Garrett Kreite '21, Γ1140
Chapter President



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Gamma Chapter of Alpha Gamma Sigma
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
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ALUMNI UPDATE

CHAPTER ETERNAL

Robert Woerman '64, Γ156
February 28, 2021

ALUMNI NEWS

Richard G. Terp '54, Γ49 has been an active Mason for over 64 years. He was elected to the 33rd Degree in September 2000. Richard lives in Urbandale, Iowa. Email: iowaterp@aol.com

Don C. Meiergerd '59, Γ119 lives in Wichita, Kan., and has been a member of the Kansas Food Bank since 1997. Email: djmeiergerd@msn.com

Lyle H. Wright '59, Γ94 is 82 and happily residing in a senior living facility in Myrtle Beach, S.C. Email: junebaitywright@gmail.com

Martin Kleinschmit '65, Γ163 is a retired organic farmer and works as an organic consultant and ground mount solar panel dealer. He lives in Hartington, Neb. Email: martink@hartel.net

Kent Zeller '67, Γ205 lives in his hometown of Ravenna, Neb. (from which he only moved away to attend UNL). After retiring from teaching in 2004, Kent was hired by the Nebraska State Fair as FFA Superintendent. He retired from that

position in 2019 and will serve his 20th and final year with the group in 2023 as FFA Assistant Superintendent. Kent is grateful for the lessons and friends he gained from Alpha Gamma Sigma. "Four years well-spent with memories and fellow brothers I get together with each year! Thank you!" Email: kentezeller@gmail.com

Keith Vorderstrasse '73, Γ298 retired in March 2020 and lives in Barneston, Neb., where he enjoys fishing, gardening, and raising hunting pups.

Tim Johnson '76, Γ325 lives in Hershey, Neb., where he raises and sells alfalfa hay. Tim is the secretary/treasurer of both the Paxton-Hershey Irrigation and the local cemetery board. He leads services and preaches once a month at Lutheran Church in Hershey. Email: cranesong.56@gmail.com

Kevan Koch '76, Γ330 recently sold the cowherd and just farms crops now. He lives in Eustis, Neb., and spends winters in Arizona; he soon plans to live in the South full time. Email: herby4031@yahoo.com

Kevin C. Yost '84, Γ464 is a partner and co-founder of a Denver-based private equity firm.

They buy and build consumer product companies. Kevin lives in Greenwood Village, Colo. Email: kevin.yost@capitolpeakpartners.com

Kevin Meyer '93, Γ639 enjoys "country life with a corporate job," focused on driving value into beef and pork by making it more available to consumers. His kids are involved in sports, horses, and rodeo. Kevin lives in Elkins, Ark. Email: kevinmeyer24@gmail.com

Ben Blomendahl '04, Γ833 works for USDA-NASS and farms part time; he's also a fellow of Nebraska LEAD 36. Ben lives in Lincoln, Neb. Email: ben476@hotmail.com

Kyle Upp '15, Γ1006 is moving from Ohio back to Nebraska in July 2023 to work for Flatwater Wealth in Grand Island. "Very excited to read about the Aspire program! Cannot wait to see the new house soon!" Email: kyleupp@gmail.com

Cade Adamson '18, Γ1084 lives in Cody, Neb., where he watches cows eat grass. "Sometimes I move the cows to new grass. Sometimes, I cut the grass and let them eat it when it's cold." Email: adamsoncade@gmail.com