



GAMMA UPDATE

Gamma Chapter of Alpha Gamma Sigma • Fall 2021



Marking a Day in ΑΓΣ History

Thank You to Those Who Joined Us for Our Grand Opening Celebration

This past August, we had a great opportunity to recognize all our hard work over the last three years at the Grand Opening Celebration for our brand-new chapter house at 3455 Holdrege Street. We owe a big thank-you to our alumni association members, who have continued to support this project and have ensured the presence of ΑΓΣ will remain strong at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln for the next 50 years.

This day marked the beginning of the next chapter for this proud organization. The fraternity has always been, and will continue to be, about the people who live, learn, and grow in the chapter. We owe a special thanks to those who attended to make the day a truly special event.

As we look to the future, we will continue to lead with the same principles that made this project such a great success. Leading as one organization, with one vision, working toward the same common goal, which has, and always will be, about building toward the betterment of ΑΓΣ.

Fraternally,
The Alumni Board of Trustees



More
Grand Opening
Pictures
Inside!





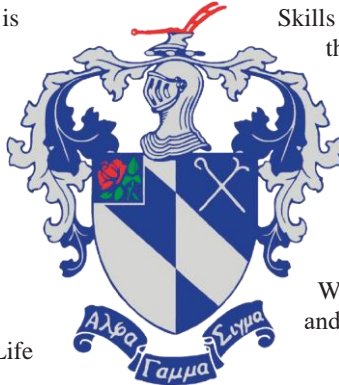
Thank You for Attending Our
Grand Opening Celebration



Building Leaders at Alpha Gamma Sigma Introducing the Gamma Foundation

As brothers of Alpha Gamma Sigma, our main goal is to create members who exemplify the meaning of “excellence, knowledge, and wisdom.” We want our brothers to excel in every aspect of life, and we hope to assist them along the way.

With that said, we are introducing the AGS Gamma Chapter Foundation to further help our brothers accomplish their goals and make the most of their time here at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. As you should have read in our first mailer we recently sent, one of the purposes of our foundation is to fund the Leadership and Life



Skills Program, which will provide brothers with the resources they need to succeed.

Our alumni play an important role in the success of Gamma Chapter, always working behind the scenes to ensure the chapter thrives. We appreciate our alumni, and we hope you will make a 501(c)(3) tax-deductible contribution to the AGS Gamma Chapter Foundation.

We look forward to building the future of Gamma Chapter and hope you'll join us in assisting our members.

Learning Is Experience

Rich Katt '71, Γ255 Educates and Implements New Training Program

Fraternities supply the tools to become an influential leader, an active community member, and a successful individual. Once members graduate from college and become alumni, they must apply those skills to their everyday lives. **Rich Katt '71, Γ255** recognizes that all members may not have this experience, so he offers a helping hand.

Rich's experience in the fraternity and in education created a foundation of wanting to provide direction for young people. Teaching high school for six years and serving as the executive director for Nebraska Future Farmers of America (FFA) for 18 years was a fulfilling career for Rich; although he retired after 43 years of working in education, his desire to teach didn't stop there.

“Most chapters spend a great deal of time and emphasis on the integration of new men, but after activation, there is no organized development program for members,” Rich proclaimed.

Rich is working with a task force of ΑΓΣ alumni to create the Leadership and Life Skills Program to enhance leadership and personal development. The program comprises group interaction, videos, and just-in-time training to provide resume writing skills, interviewing advice, finance management, and interpersonal communication.

To make the program accessible to both active members and alumni of the chapter, Rich and the task force



“Leadership experiences and involvement in the fraternity helped in my teaching and administration position. I learned from successes, and especially from failures, to develop my skill set.”

developed the program to be on accessible software. His hope is that the program identifies and meets the unique needs of active members and alumni.

“Providing this instruction will help the men be more successful in securing a position and succeeding in their career. It gives members of Alpha Gamma Sigma a great opportunity to be triumphant in their career and life.”

Being a member of ΑΓΣ himself, Rich dedicates much his success and career path to his involvement with the chapter: “Leadership experiences and involvement in the fraternity helped in my teaching and administration position. I learned from successes, and especially from failures, to develop my skill set.”

When he's not guiding young people in their careers, Rich enjoys traveling, gardening, reading, learning about different cultures, and watching college athletics. He has visited 19 countries and 49 states.

There's a learning opportunity at every corner, Rich advised. “Be prepared to never stop learning. Take advantage of development opportunities. Seek experiences outside of your comfort zone.”

To learn more about becoming involved in the Leadership and Life Skills Program, or to figure out the one state Rich hasn't visited, you can connect with Rich at rkatt53@gmail.com.



A Life of Hard Work

Charter Member Gerald “Jerry, Gary” Schiermeyer ’53, Γ18 Shares His Life Story

Charter member **Gerald Schiermeyer ’53, Γ18** celebrated his 96th birthday on August 16. Here, he shares his story, from his years in school to his career to living in the 1930s—and everything in between.

I was born in a farmhouse on a 160-acre farm near Lake Superior. My first eight years of school took place in a one-room country schoolhouse. There were 37 kids in my class at Nelson High, with only three of us surviving. I graduated from high school in 1943 and from NU in 1956. With a little mental arithmetic, one can say it took me 13 years to get a degree; truth be told, it only took me seven semesters. I walked a mile and a half in the morning and the afternoon. I mentioned this in a group, and some clown apparently thought I was bragging and said, “I suppose it was uphill both ways.”

I remember the 1930s—the dust storms, the drought, and the low prices; eggs were 12 cents a dozen, wheat was 21 cents a bushel, and gas was 19 cents a gallon. My dad bought a 1936 Chevy for \$600 (he had driven a Model T Ford prior to that). He also traded six horses for a 1935 John Deere steel-wheel tractor.

I won the Block and Bridle Club livestock judging contest in 1953 and showed my ribbons to a young lady that I was dating at the time. Later in the evening, she shared that she would like to lose about 5 pounds. I said, “I think you are A-OK just as you are,” and she said, “I think



you are a better judge of cows than of women.” I was also awarded the Elgin wristwatch for winning the 1955 livestock judging contest. My proudest achievement is hanging in the halls of Animal Husbandry as a member of the 1955 NU livestock judging team.

I worked for USDA for 25 years, then was a livestock market news reporter in Omaha for two and a half years. I was a livestock and dressed meat reporter in North Portland, Oregon, and then called into the Washington, D.C., livestock division to do research used in establishing dual grading of beef carcasses. I also worked for the Food and Drug Administration for three years.

I retired 37 years ago at the age of 59—too young to just sit, so June and I bought 10 acres near Warrenton, Virginia. We built a contemporary house and raised a few pedigree

Shorthorn cattle. We later sold the calves to 4-Hers, retired again, and moved to North Carolina in 2006, where we bought a little brick house on the shores of Lake Sequoia.

I have two sons and a daughter: Scott lives in Queens, New York, Barry in Amissville, Virginia, and Lisa here in the Seven Lakes. Lisa lived in Brazil for a few years, so June and I got to see beautiful Rio. I also have two stepchildren, nine grandchildren, three great-grandkids, and a great-great-granddaughter. My grandkids are either in college or have earned degrees at places like Virginia Tech, UNC Chapel Hill, North Carolina State, Queens Community College, Culinary Institute of America, and Cornell.

You can connect with Gerald at junegary777@gmail.com.



WELCOME, NEW GAMMA BROTHERS

Kade Beguin
Elkhorn, Neb.

Brett Heinrich
Hickman, Neb.

Cooper Koch
York, Neb.

Seth Miller
Merna, Neb.

Sam Skavdahl*
Harrison, Neb.

Drew Walton
Plattsmouth, Neb.

Harrison Boesch
Lincoln, Neb.

Jackson Henry*
Ansley, Neb.

Garrett Kriete*
Hooper, Neb.

Caleb Modlin
Elk Point, S.D.

(Father **Josh Skavdahl '90, Γ589**)

Blake Wyatt
Ogallala, Neb.

Dylan Chatt
Tekamah, Neb.

(Uncle **Mike Thomsen '77, Γ148**)

(Father **Doug Kriete '88, Γ540**)

Garrison Potadle
Herman, Neb.

Gage Stoyer
Ogallala, Neb.

*Legacy

Cole Consbruck
Giltner, Neb.

Brayden Hill
Omaha, Neb.

Logan Lloyd
Elkhorn, Neb.

Lake Reikofski
Wauneta, Neb.

Elijah Sutton
Elkhorn, Neb.

Grant Franken
Firth, Neb.

Keegan Jensen
Cordova, Neb.

Rodney McDonald
Clay Center, Neb.

Sam Vonsprecklesen
Clay Center, Neb.



The Best Time to Be a Part of Alpha Gamma Sigma

Gammas Remain Involved and Dedicated to the Chapter

Reflecting on the conversations I was privileged to have with our alumni and families at the Grand Opening Celebration this past August, I recognized one common sentiment: “There has never been a better time to be a part of Alpha Gamma Sigma.” I couldn’t agree more.

First, I’d like to say how impressed I am with the 23 new members our chapter advisor, **Taylor Collins ’11, Γ949**, and our recruitment chairmen, **Kooper Jelinek ’19, Γ1108**, **Drew Drake ’19, Γ1113**, and **Colton Husa ’20, Γ1130**, welcomed to our brotherhood. Many of these new members were brought to us by alumni, so thank you to everyone who assisted us in this year’s recruitment.

We have transitioned into our new location at 3455 Holdrege Street, and the dedicated work of our alumni executive board, building board, architect **Darin Armstrong ’84, Γ480**, and House Manager **Brandon Jelinek ’18, Γ1070** has allowed us to redefine the way a chapter house facilitates collaboration among our members.

One of our biggest goals this year is to increase our philanthropic impact; we have plans in the works to partner with organizations involved in multiple sclerosis research, cancer medicine, and women’s resources. Vice President **Weston Svoboda ’19, Γ1096** is leading this effort, with our last fundraiser bringing in \$7,800 to support the David Spencer Cancer Foundation.

Our chapter ranked in the top 10 academically among fraternities last spring, and Scholarship Chairman **Luke Krabel ’19, Γ1093** has continued to work with **Scott Bunz ’89, Γ565** and the rest of our foundation board to provide our members with the most scholarships of any fraternity on campus as well as to create programming that helps our men excel in the classroom.

The revamp of our member development program is underway, with **Rick Gestring ’83, Γ450**, **Rich Katt ’71, Γ255**, **Dean Folkers ’84, Γ468**, and our fraternity educator, **Ethan Dozler ’19, Γ1097**, leading the way in creating a four-year program full of personal and professional skills training that will greatly benefit our already heavily involved membership.

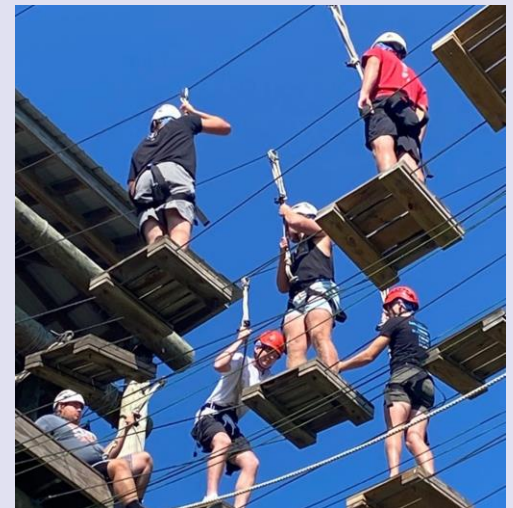
I am incredibly proud of the efforts our men have made to get to where we are today. We are grateful to everyone who has invested in our potential, and over the next few semesters we hope to garner even more alumni involvement as we continue to develop the processes that help our members embody what it means to be an ΑΓΣ man.



Fraternally,
Bennett Perlinger ’19, Γ1092
Chapter President
bennetperlinger@gmail.com



Members enjoy a game of sand volleyball before the first week of classes. Back row: **Cody Schaad ’19, Γ1107** and **Ethan Dozler ’19, Γ1097**. Front row: **Ben Schow ’19, Γ1114** and **Alex Jarecke ’20, Γ1122**.



The 2021 pledge class participating in a team ropes course during the first week of the fall semester.

GAMMA CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

President
Bennett Perlinger ’19, Γ1092
Paxton, Neb.

Fraternity Educator
Ethan Dozler ’19, Γ1097
Albion, Neb.

Social Chairman
Alex Jarecke ’20, Γ1122
Stuart, Neb.

Vice President
Weston Svoboda ’19, Γ1096
Burwell, Neb.

Recruitment Chairman
Kooper Jelinek ’19, Γ1108
Atkinson, Neb.

Alumni Relations Chairman
Brody Benson ’20, Γ1126
Valentine, Neb.

Secretary
Chad Niemeier ’19, Γ1099
Beatrice, Neb.

House Manager
Brandon Jelinek ’18, Γ1070
Atkinson, Neb.

Public Relations Chairman
Aidon Perlinger ’19, Γ1095
Paxton, Neb.

Treasurer
Logan Anderson ’19, Γ1091
Virginia, Neb.

Scholarship Chairman
Luke Krabel ’19, Γ1093
Juniata, Neb.

Risk Management Chairman
Benjamin Schow ’19, Γ1114
Paxton, Neb.



Members attend an exhibition baseball game between the Lincoln Saltdogs and the Milwaukee Milkmen.

Alumni Updates

Eli Thomssen '56, F77 spent his career in the pharmaceutical industry working for The Upjohn Company that is now owned by Pfizer. He retired after 37 years, then got involved in starting life science companies. Eli has been actively involved with the ΑΓΣ building project. Email: elthomssen@gmail.com

Don Meiergerd '59, F119 retired from Cargill in 2003. He and his wife, Judy, have eight grandchildren. Their two daughters and their husbands live in Wichita, Kan. Their son is a priest in the Bronx in New York, N.Y. Donald has been a board member on the Kansas Food Bank for 25 years and chaired a capital campaign for a new food bank in 2005. Email: djmeiergerd@msn.com

Richard Overy '62, F137 is retired from Farm Credit Services. He's the treasurer for Christ Church United Methodist and Prodigal Ministries. Richard has two daughters and six grandchildren. He enjoys playing golf and doing yard work. Email: rovery1944@gmail.com

Wayne Hake '65, F168 retired from the U.S. Army Reserves at the rank of lieutenant colonel. He served in the Persian Gulf War. Wayne works in the financial services industry as a financial planner and investment advisor. Email: whake6970@att.net

Marvin Jahde '68, F209 has three children and four grandchildren and is blessed to have them all in the Kansas City area. He's spent his career in sales and marketing within the animal health industry. Marvin congratulates ΑΓΣ leadership for their efforts regarding the new chapter house. Email: marvjd@kc.rr.com

Doug Osler '72, F269 lived and farmed 14 miles south of Elsie, Neb., for 28 years. He works for Union Pacific in North Platte, Neb., where he's lived for the past 17 years. Email: douglasosler@gmail.com

Jim Ronhovde '73, F278 and his wife, Grace, both retired from teaching. They moved back to Elmwood, Neb., after teaching in New Mexico for six years. They are in the process of a major renovation of their home. Email: jimronhovde@gmail.com

Kelly Keaschall '76, F323 and his wife, Deb, celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary in 2020. They have three grown children—all married, employed, and out of the house. They also have eight grandchildren (four boys and four girls). Kelly plans to work for several



GAMMA UPDATE

Gamma Chapter of Alpha Gamma Sigma
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
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Lawrence, KS 66044-2100

Address Service Requested



See inside for photos from our dedication!

Communication support and assistance provided by Pennington & Company.

Save the Date for our Annual Alumni Meeting | March 5, 2022 | Location TBD

more years, but on a part-time basis. He stays in touch with the University of Nebraska, as he has served on the Animal Science External Advisory Committee for the past 10 years. Email: kellyk@hueberllc.com

Doug Pieper '80, F418 retired from Farmers Coop in 2018 and took over his family farm. He lives in Beatrice, Neb. Email: dapieper62@yahoo.com

Kevin Yost '84, F464 is a partner at a private equity firm in Denver, Colo. Email: kevin.yost@capitolpeakpartners.com

Mark Frank '90, F581 is married to Tara Fejfar. They have two children, Coleman and Savanna. He owns a crop insurance business with his brother, Garron. Mark enjoys hunting, fishing, Nebraska football, and helping on their family farm in Verdigre, Neb. Email: markfrankne@gmail.com

Eric Dam '93, F636 and his wife, Megan, have three children, Will, Evan, and Allie. He serves as a district lead for Pioneer Hi-Bred in Nebraska. Eric is active with their church, Teammates, Extension Board, LEAD alumni

Do You Have an Article Idea?

We hope you've been enjoying the *Gamma Update* newsletters! It is our commitment to continue these publications to ensure you're staying in touch with ΑΓΣ, but we sometimes need article suggestions. Do you have an idea for the next issue? If so, please reach out to **Jerry Lentfer '85, F493**, at jlentfer123@gmail.com.

board, and coaching youth basketball. Email: eric.dam@pioneer.com

Chad Villwok '95, F666 is excited about the new house for ΑΓΣ! He and his wife, Beverly, have three children: Mason and Makenna are 15-year-old twins and Karlie is 13. Email: chad@tallgrass.us