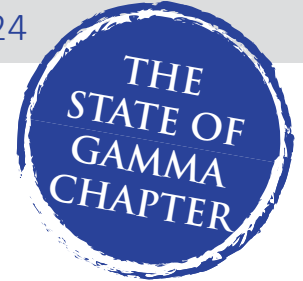




# GAMMA UPDATE

Gamma Chapter of Alpha Gamma Sigma • Spring 2024



## CELEBRATING SUCCESSES, RECOGNIZING CHALLENGES

What better way to wrap up another academic year for Gamma Chapter than to appreciate where things stand for our chapter and alumni. Let's celebrate the following:

- The chapter GPA remains at 3.35 or higher, with a record from the new member class of 3.51 (across 31 members).
- We've seen continued improvement in the responses from new members regarding participation in the *Aspire* program. The growth and feedback gained from this class are essential to further develop *Aspire*.
- We have a new active executive team working to further develop Gamma Chapter's rich history by listening to and addressing concerns from the all-house survey while making sure the fraternity's rules are respected and followed.

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

- Assisting the recruitment chairmen in securing a high-quality new member class. This is the lifeblood of our fraternity.
- Aspiring to lead via continued mentoring of the active executive team, which began with a productive active executive/Alumni Board retreat in February 2024 and continues with regular contact from the board.
- Developing life and career aspirations for

second-, third-, and fourth-year members that cover topics such as résumé review, interviewing techniques, social media training, financial planning, involvement opportunities, and development of conflict-resolution skills.

### LOOKING AHEAD

We celebrate these achievements and plan to further develop members while addressing challenges. One continued challenge to UNL's Greek system is the inclination of seniors applying for out-of-house status and an alarming number of juniors too. There are several reasons given (cheaper to live in an apartment/rented house, wanting a different living style, the ability to have a beer where they live/sleep, etc.), but the trend keeps growing.

For the 2024-25 academic year, there will be two seniors living in the fraternity, and nine juniors have requested and been granted out-of-house status. Some will argue that it helps build a larger chapter (currently at 104 members). While this is true, it undoubtedly creates a leadership "vacuum" within the walls of the fraternity and requires continued large new member classes (28 to 32).

While the desire to move out seems foreign to many of us, it appears to be a sign of the times. We repeat to the members: "You can live in an apartment the rest of your life, but you only have four years to live in a fraternity with your brothers."

### YOUR ENGAGEMENT MATTERS

We appreciate the alumni who attended a Monday night dinner and meeting this past academic year to share their AGS and college experiences while answering career questions. Don't hesitate to reach out with questions you might have, including any interest in serving on either board or addressing the chapter during a Monday night dinner and meeting. We need your participation.

Look for additional communications this year and beyond as the Foundation Board works to raise funds to carry out our missions. Put **Saturday, September 7**, in your calendars, as the alumni and foundation will host the Big Red Tailgate prior to the game against Colorado. The Alumni Association will host the annual meeting before that event, so stay tuned for details. Also mark **Thursday, November 7 2024** for our inaugural Give to Gamma Day. More to come on this special day for Gamma Chapter's past, present and future.

Thank you for your support. We hope that you provide a name or two for potential new members and that you join us at the fall alumni meeting and tailgate event.



Fraternally,  
**Shane Belohrad '87, Γ515**  
shane\_belohrad@ajg.com

## Chapter Eternal

During the past few months, we have lost three Gamma Chapter founders, and one who was a member of the first pledge class. The founders and early pledges were all great scholars and participants in many different campus activities. They set the standards Gamma Chapter has continued to maintain, the reason AGS is one of the leading fraternities at UNL. We certainly appreciate all they did for AGS and express our sympathy to their families.



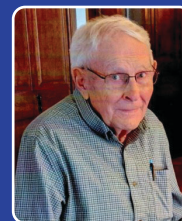
**Stanley Eberspacher '53, Γ3 – Founder**



**Gerald Schiermeyer '53, Γ18 – Founder**



**Boyd Stuhr '53, Γ21 – Founder**



**Kendall Atkins '54, Γ25 – First pledge class**







# What's Going on at Gamma Chapter?

## RECENT GATHERINGS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

This year, Gamma Chapter has achieved remarkable milestones. In 2023, we welcomed a pledge class of 31 new members, who collectively achieved an impressive GPA of 3.51 during the fall semester.

Many members hold influential positions within various campus clubs and organizations. Notably, our chapter has many members in the NHRI mentorship program, adding to our longstanding relationship with the organization. Along with NHRI, several hold positions on the Young Nebraska Cattlemen's executive board, where they further their agricultural



Three of our members, Kade Beguin '21, Γ1145 (second from left), Caleb Modlin '21, Γ1158 (second from right), and Truman Knudsen '21, Γ1162 (far right), represent Alpha Gamma Sigma in Reno, Nevada, at the Associated Schools of Construction 2024 student competition.

roots and leadership skills. Among these are **Braden Benes '22, Γ1173** (president) and **Carson Maricle '22, Γ1171** (treasurer).

Our Red Rose formal event was held April 13, 2024 and was a resounding success, providing an invaluable opportunity for alumni connections. The anticipation for our Red Rose event is always high among active members.

We fostered strong ties with other chapters through numerous formal gatherings throughout the past year, enhancing our connections within both the city campus and east campus communities. Notably during Homecoming week, we collaborated with Chi Omega Sorority and Triangle Fraternity as part of our triad activities.

This semester, our chapter plans to add a new philanthropy: a die tournament. All proceeds will go toward funding multiple sclerosis research. Overall, Gamma Chapter of Alpha Gamma Sigma is thriving. We are producing great leaders and great men who will surely make an impact on the world.

Fraternally,  
**Grant Lewandowski '26, Γ1165**, President



Members wave the Alpha Gamma Sigma flag in Arizona during spring break.



Harrison Boesch '21, Γ1148 (left) and Boston Reeves '22, Γ1191 visit New Zealand over winter break as part of the university's study abroad program.

## CHAPTER OFFICERS



The newly elected executive board is excited to serve our brotherhood.

President  
**Grant Lewandowski '22, Γ1165**

Vice President  
**Grant Mielak '22, Γ1170**

Secretary  
**Dawson Schram '22, Γ1172**

Treasurer  
**Dustin Andreason '22, Γ1175**

Fraternity Educator  
**Gavin Dozler '22, Γ1166**

House Manager  
**Tandon Buhr '22, Γ1177**

Scholarship Chairman  
**Luke Richards '23, Γ1194**

Recruitment Chairmen  
**Nathan Bell '22, Γ1180**  
(402) 480-8363  
nathanbell88@gmail.com

**Seth Wert '22, Γ1182**  
(308) 940-3768  
sethwert1102@gmail.com

Social Chairman  
**Max Mueller '23, Γ1210**

Alumni Relations Chairman  
**Cody Maricle '22, Γ1184**

Public Relations Chairman  
**Fred Hausman '22, Γ1192**

Risk Management Chairman  
**Spencer Bartek '23, Γ1212**



## Red Rose Formal

This year's chapter award winners at the Red Rose formal. From left to right: Tim George

**Athlete of the year:**

Tandon Buhr '22, Γ1177

**Active of the year:**

Garrett Kriete '21, Γ1140

**AGS Sweetheart:** Anna Halverson

**New Member Scholar:**

Luke Richards '23, Γ1194

**Senior of the year:**

Brody Benson '20, Γ1126

**Curtis Domina Memorial**

**Scholarship:** Brody Benson '20, Γ1126

**New member of the year:** Clay Witthun '23 Γ1206 (not pictured)



Legacy members get ready for the Red Rose formal with their alumni parents. Pictured (left to right):

Joshua Skavdahl '90 Γ589 and Sam Skavdahl '22 Γ1154, Scott Heinrich '90 Γ574 and Brett Heinrich '21 Γ1157, Terry Richards '91 Γ602 and Luke Richards '23, Γ1194, Kirk Holtmeier '92 Γ623 and Carter Holtmeier '23 Γ1202, Mark Frank '92 Γ581 and Coleman Frank '22 Γ1185, and Patrick Kroese '89 Γ864 and Dylan Kroese '22 Γ1188.







## A LIKE-MINDED BROTHERHOOD

### Todd Shane '81, Γ423 Shares Memories of Alpha Gamma Sigma

For Todd Shane '81, Γ423, his journey with Alpha Gamma Sigma is a story of enduring friendships and shared experiences that have shaped his life over the last four decades.

His first introduction to the fraternity came by way of several upperclassmen who shared his rural hometown. They told stories from the chapter house and encouraged him to consider joining. "I liked the fact that the chapter was focused mostly on agricultural education," Todd recalled. "I knew I would be able to relate to others in the brotherhood."

Todd's pride in Gamma Chapter was rooted in the steadfast loyalty he found among his brothers. "You could always rely on the brothers to watch your back and support you at all times."

Todd's fondest memories from the chapter house include cherished traditions like Snow Bowl, formal gatherings, and late-night study sessions spent bonding with his brothers over snacks and drinks. Eventually, Todd took on a leadership role in the house as house warden, which involved keeping the chapter house operations running smoothly.

After graduating with a bachelor's degree in agronomy with an agricultural economics minor, Todd pursued a career in self-employed farming, working alongside his brothers. "We now raise row crops and have 12,500 feeder hogs."

Todd attributes his steadfast commitment to the industry to his time in AGS, where he found kindred spirits who shared his passion. "Spending time with other like-minded people only reinforced my love for agriculture."

According to Todd, Gamma Chapter greatly impacted his life by helping him develop relationships with people of different backgrounds and personalities. "I'm more tolerant because of my time in the house."

Reflecting on his journey, Todd offers some advice to current undergraduates. "Use your education as a foundation so that you can pursue a career that fits your lifestyle and passion," he said. "And be sure to remember your wife on Valentine's Day!"

Today, Todd lives in O'Neill and farms north of Atkinson. He and his wife, a former house sweetheart, enjoy skiing, traveling, and relaxing at their cabin in Hidden Paradise. The couple has two daughters, three grandchildren, and another on the way. If you'd like to connect with Todd, send an email to [tshane81@hotmail.com](mailto:tshane81@hotmail.com).

## WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

**Justin Barbee** | Hastings, Neb. | Agricultural Economics  
**Spencer Bartek** | Gretna, Neb. | Agricultural Engineering  
**Tucker Bergen** | Henderson, Neb. | Agribusiness  
**Braydon Binger** | Hay Springs, Neb. | Agronomy  
**Alex Boudreau** | Minden, Neb. | CASNR General  
**Caleb Burnside** | Stapelton, Neb. | Agribusiness  
**Henry Coleman** | Murdock, Neb. | Agricultural Engineering  
**Wyatt Ehlers** | Chambers, Neb. | Agribusiness  
**Maverick Elser** | Sibley, Iowa | Biochemistry  
**Zack Gaffney** | Broken Bow, Neb. | Agricultural Engineering  
**Ethan Golda** | Springfield, Neb. | Construction Management  
**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

*"I thought it would help me get many connections, memories, and friends early on in college."*

**Luke Richards** | Oakland, Neb. | Agribusiness

*"This fraternity has helped me make many connections with many men with an agricultural background."*

**Forest Rutledge** | Yuma, Colo. | Animal Science

*"I joined to be around more like-minded guys who could help me learn and grow as a person."*

**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 Zulkoski** | Leigh, Neb. | Agribusiness

# SAVE THE DATE



Make your plans to join us for the Big Red Tailgate on **Saturday, September 7**. We hope to see you in attendance for another celebration of Alpha Gamma Sigma brotherhood.



# GAMMA UPDATE

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

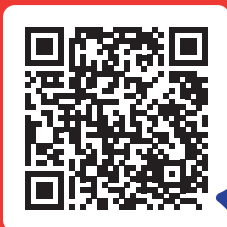
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## Help Us Grow the Brotherhood

*Submit a Recruitment Referral*

Do you know a young man attending UNL who would be a great fit for Gamma Chapter? Please submit a recruitment referral online by visiting [agsunl.org/modern-living/referral.html](https://agsunl.org/modern-living/referral.html).



## THANK YOU, GENEROUS DONORS

We appreciate everyone who gave to Gamma Chapter in 2023 and so far this year. We have partnered again with Pennington & Company to manage our annual campaign. Your gift allows Gamma Foundation to ensure our brothers have opportunities to do big things while preparing for their careers and life after college.

Our annual budget for scholarships and member development exceeds \$80,000. We seek to grow that budget to serve more Gamma members over the coming years. You can contribute today by visiting [tinyurl.com/AGSGammaFoundation](https://tinyurl.com/AGSGammaFoundation).

If there is an error in your listing or your name is mistakenly omitted, we sincerely apologize. Please contact our communications coordinator at [chammond@penningtonco.com](mailto:chammond@penningtonco.com) to submit a correction.

SCAN TO HELP



Dale Van Vleck '53, Γ22  
Dick Paul '56, Γ61  
Larry M. Lutz '56, Γ70  
In memory of  
Jeannie Lutz  
Eli L. Thomssen '56, Γ77  
Donald C. Meiergerd '59, Γ119  
Dwight G. Kanter,  
Ph.D. '64, Γ153  
Terry Bussear '69, Γ210  
Dale Ekart '70, Γ227  
Richard L. Katt '71, Γ255

Lyle Kinley Jr. '75, Γ313  
John Kinley '78, Γ360  
Thomas Hermance '79, Γ384  
Todd Shane '81, Γ423  
Gerard J. Keating '82, Γ437  
Kevin C. Yost '84, Γ464  
John H. Bergmeyer '85, Γ485  
Keith Molzer '86, Γ511  
Michael Zalman '87, Γ524  
Mark D. Brase '87, Γ528  
Brian Nedrow '89, Γ556  
Mark Frank '90, Γ581

Jason Voss '91, Γ600  
Matthew Jedlicka '91, Γ605  
Mark D. Johnson '92, Γ622  
Joseph Skavdahl '94, Γ644  
Craig George '96, Γ686  
Brad Heinrichs '01, Γ785  
Stephanie and Grant  
Wallace, M.D. '05, Γ852  
Adam Brown '07, Γ892  
Nathan Hatterman '17, Γ1053  
Brandon Jelinek '18, Γ1070