

GAMMA CRESCENT

GAMMA CHAPTER OF ALPHA GAMMA RHO FRATERNITY AT PENN STATE | FALL 2022

GAMMA CHAPTER IS STRONG

Active Chapter, Alumni, and House Demonstrate Growth

MOVING FORWARD

The active chapter is learning from their recent social issue that occurred this spring. This process has made the chapter stronger; members are living up to all the obligations set by both Penn State and the AGR National Office. This work ethic and attitude is making them Better Men, and I look forward to working with them to grow even stronger in this area.

NATIONAL CONVENTION

The AGR National Convention was held this past July in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. I joined several active brothers in attendance, and we came away with many new ideas to help make Gamma Chapter stronger while enjoying all that Milwaukee had to offer. One area of focus that you will hear more about in the future is the new “Standards of Chapter Excellence” program geared toward helping our chapter develop better training and programming. More details from AGR National will come soon.

HOMECOMING MEETING, TAILGATE

Our Homecoming business meeting was held October 16 via Zoom, and we also held a Gamma alumni tailgate prior to the White Out game versus Minnesota. We had a strong alumni turnout for the tailgate, and it was great to meet up again with alumni fellowship. Thank you to all who participated, and a HUGE shoutout to Brothers **Todd Grice '81 (Γ1154)** and **Kevin Culver '82 (Γ1189)** for hosting the tailgate.

WE NEED HELP!

For chapter house maintenance, we plan to replace the worn-out fascia outside—one side per year until complete. We’re also replacing the furniture, carpeting, and drapes in the Great Hall, a goal we’ve named the “Make Great Hall Great Again” campaign. **The alumni board is personally matching alumni donations to fund this project.** The extent of updates will depend on financial support, so please consider a contribution.

JOIN OUR ALUMNI GROUP

I encourage all alumni to get involved with the Gamma alumni group. We are always accepting help, which you can give in many ways. Some give their time, others give their expertise and advice, and others financially support the chapter. If you would like to become more involved, please contact me or others on the board. We would love to hear from you.

Fraternally,

John “Mega” Merenick '86 (Γ1236)



Chris Deitrich '21 (Γ1876), John Merenick '86 (Γ1236), and Dave Lucak '21 (Γ1880) attend the National AGR Convention in Milwaukee.

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AGR TAILGATES BEFORE THE MINNESOTA GAME!



From left: John Baugher '13 (Γ1633), Jock Schaefer '87 (Γ1251), John Merenick '86 (Γ1236), Nate Nourse '68 (Γ1235), Kevin Culver '82 (Γ1189), Todd Grice '81 (Γ1154), and Chris Baugher '80 (Γ1146).



From left: John Merenick '86 (Γ1236), Jim Valent '90 (Γ1292), Jock Schaefer '87 (Γ1251), Tom Oliver '65 (Γ1313), Matt Quesenberry '90 (Γ1295), and Nate Nourse '68 (Γ1235).

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Noble Ruler

Tyler Giese '21 (Γ1878)

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I am a junior from Thousand Oaks, Calif., majoring in mechanical engineering.

My time as Noble Ruler so far has been enlightening, and I'm very satisfied with the work my fellow executive members and I have put in so far. We have a great class of new members whom I expect to add a lot to the culture of Alpha Gamma Rho. I look forward to the next semester of leading this organization and ending on a high note.

promote a positive monetary reputation for our chapter. Additionally, I am serving my second year as Penn State Dance Marathon (THON) chairman for AGR, helping raise money for the care of children and families impacted by childhood cancer.

This is also my first semester living in the Gamma Chapter house, and I could not be happier living with 35 fellow Gamma men. I've enjoyed my time on the Gamma Executive Board, and as my time comes to an end, I hope that my predecessor will be able to execute the duties of the position effectively, and that I've laid a foundation for them to do so.

beautiful house both inside and out, and I am proud to be able to keep it that way as best as possible. I looking forward to finishing this semester strong—which also marks the end of my term—and to helping those who are interested prepare for the role in the spring.

VNR Membership

Development

Sean Clark '21 (Γ1875)

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I am a senior from Haverford, Pa., majoring in supply chain management with a minor in Spanish. I ran for this position due to the rich traditions that this house has instilled upon me and the other, previously initiated brothers. We were fortunate to have a decent-sized class considering our current situation for this fall semester thanks to **Aidan O'Leary '21 (Γ1884)**. These past few weeks have been spent teaching the new members about the traditions and information surrounding this great fraternity. Everything has been going well this semester, and I cannot wait to see what these new members bring to the future of this house.

VNR Activities

Sam Pedone '21 (Γ1886)

sam235ped@gmail.com



I am a junior from Holden, Mass., studying accounting. I chose to run for this position because I wanted to improve the house and support its growth. When I joined this house, I felt that there were lots of areas that could be improved. As an executive board, I believe we have done just that. Organizing events and activities for the house has been a great experience, to say the least. I have enjoyed collaborating with my fellow executive board members and other brothers when it comes to planning. I have also enjoyed meeting and coordinating with the school when it comes to the rules and regulations of these events. It is always important that we follow all their established regulations for the betterment of our organization. Next semester, I look forward to continuing this role and further improving the house so it is in good standing for future classes.

VNR Recruitment

Aidan O'Leary '21 (Γ1884)

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I chose to pursue VNR Recruitment due to my love for my recruitment week. I felt that the brothers were the most genuine group of guys I had met and really took me in as one of their own, and I try to represent that side of our brotherhood every day during the recruitment period. Unlike the recruitment period we experienced, this was fully in person with nothing over Zoom, which allowed us to get a better feel for the new members and have better input from the entire house. We ended up initiating seven new members, all of whom are fine young men, and I'm excited to see what they do in the house. This coming spring, I plan to help my successor implement a similar week, doing events like dodgeball and poker nights to get the competitive side of the new members going.

VNR Finance

Chris Deitrich '21 (Γ1876)

chris13@ptd.net



I am a junior from Allentown, Pa., majoring in finance and minoring in psychology. Soon I will have completed my second semester as Vice Noble Ruler of Finance. Contrary to my first semester of learning the ropes in this position, I've been able this fall to introduce adjustments and innovative ideas for the betterment of Gamma Chapter. Our fall budget started at net positive, and we have maintained financial security as a chapter since.

I've also created new options for members' due payments, culminating in thousands saved for our chapter in fees. Before the semester ends, I aim to add new amendments to the VNR Finance section of our bylaws. These would introduce additional checks and balances to

VNR Maintenance and Operations

David Lukac '21 (Γ1880)

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Being involved in the house and making the most of the time here is something very important to me, and that is why I decided to run for an executive position. My Big held the position before me, so I decided to take it on myself. It is a very time-consuming position that is difficult to balance with school at times, but I am very happy I took it. Brothers in the house have been helpful, and so have past VNR Maintenance and Operations who are still actives. We were blessed with a

VNR Alumni Relations

Robert Zelley '21 (Γ1889)

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This semester has been very eye-opening for me in my position, and I feel that I have improved my commitment to my job here. Although most of our alumni visitors are recent graduates, we have had the pleasure of hosting three other alumni this fall. Brother **Carter Kabot '15 (Γ1716)** visited the chapter house early this semester to speak to our supply chain majors; **Rob Weeden '21 (Γ1903)** has since accepted an internship with Brother Kabot's company. It is always a pleasure to have Brother **John Merenick '86 (Γ1236)** visit the house. Many brothers indulged in fascinating conversations with John about the past and how we should shape our future. Many more have made their way back to Penn State to enjoy the beautiful Saturdays at Beaver Stadium. **Todd Grice '81 (Γ1154)** hosts a tailgate every weekend with his friends and family and also hosted active brothers for the White Out game. Many hot dogs and burgers were served as we tossed some bags. We as a brotherhood appreciate Todd's generosity hosting us on that day.

Alumni Update

VNR Planning

Ryan Macosko '21 (Γ1881)
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I am a junior from Lansdale, Pa., majoring in supply chain with a minor in information systems management. This fall, we have once again completed two blood drives with the Red Cross. Approximately 20 brothers both volunteered at the drive and donated blood (not including all of the new members who are required to volunteer). Another incentive of the blood drives is that if we have the most donors out of any Greek organization, we receive \$2,000 toward THON.

As a brotherhood, we are working to complete the requirements of our probation, including risk management modules (now complete) and a pair of accountability classes.

Another one of my duties is kitchen manager, so I work with Happy Valley Home Cooking and our chef to plan meals for the brotherhood and maintain supply of essential items such as utensils, plates, cups, etc. I am working alongside the rest of the executive board to create a smooth transition for the next executive board by completing officer transition training modules.

VNR Scholarship

Matthew Berkenstock '21 (Γ1870)



As always, I work to ensure new members are performing well in school and becoming better men. Since the new pledge class is all sophomores with relatively good GPAs, I am helping ensure they get into their intended major. This includes mandatory study hours during the weekdays to make completing their homework a top priority. The new members are showing promise and are on the right path to becoming better men.

The Modliszewski scholarship has been offered to the chapter, and many brothers are interested. Since we had more live-in members this year, a study lounge was vital. We therefore cleaned the sprinkler room that was being used for storage, added some desks, and brothers are enjoying their new, makeshift study space. The new printer will be put in there as well—a greatly appreciated alumni donation.

Richard Campbell '58 (Γ747) is alive and well, working as a sole proprietor landscape architect and consulting arborist in Thousand Oaks, Calif. At Penn State, Richard was the High Jump record holder and president of the Varsity Club. He was also active in intramural sports, Penn State Thespians, and Pi Alpha Xi Honorary Fraternity (vice president), and graduated in the top seventh of his class. Email: rwcampbellasla@verizon.net

Jay Shannon '78 (Γ1117) was employed in agricultural finance with the Farm Credit system from 1980-2014, followed by commercial banks until retiring from Truist in 2022. In retirement, Jay and his wife enjoy travels on their BMW motorcycle. They live in Landisville, Pa, and are expecting their first grandchildren when their daughter delivers twins. Email: jshannon58@comcast.net



Eight members of the Gamma initiation class of 1958 participated in a reunion on August 6 at the home of Betsy and Jerry Lyter '59 (Γ763) in Millerstown, Pa. This was a great opportunity for brothers and spouses to reconnect after so many years. Thirty members were initiated in 1958, at least 10 of whom are now deceased. From left: Steve Witmer '61 (Γ812), Jerry Lyter '59 (Γ763), John Stephens '58 (Γ744), Rick Carpenter '59 (Γ774), Fred Meckley '59 (Γ764), Ron Deitz '59 (Γ773), Les Myers '59 (Γ762), and Duane Mattocks '59 (Γ771).

CHAPTER ETERNAL

Theodore Rothbauer '41 (Γ471) – April 28, 2021

Edgar Loy '48 (Γ558) – May 6, 2022

Wilmer Wise '52 (Γ649) – January 3, 2022

Louis Galliker '54 (Γ679) – December 17, 2021

John Williams '56 (Γ710) – May 11, 2022

Dr. Byron Paul Hartley '57 (Γ728) – October 23, 2022

W. Don Gould '58 (Γ741) – October 14, 2021

Bill Palmer '69 (Γ941) – May 30, 2022

WHY WE JOINED

Josh Peters

“The brothers uphold the same values I do, promote a comfortable learning environment, and preach the need for self-improvement. From day one, I was treated with respect, which made the house feel like home. The brothers of Alpha Gamma Rho also hold themselves to great moral standards and excel in the classroom, which was a huge deciding factor in joining this house. I could tell that these brothers would be very successful in the future by the way they carry themselves. They were by far the most welcoming group of guys I met on campus and went out of their way to recruit me, while other chapters seemed to do it only as it was convenient to them. I am proud to be a part of AGR.”

Dylan Cornett

“I wanted a tightly knit brotherhood where I felt like I belonged, which is exactly what I found in recruitment. I never liked the idea of joining a fraternity, but I could truly see how different AGR was. I loved how truthful to themselves everyone was and how they did not care what others thought about them. I loved the morals that they follow and how they preach self-improvement.”

Charlie Gendron

“Because of the bond I saw among brothers. Every time I step foot in the chapter house, I am reminded that everyone is truly brothers and best friends as opposed to simply a group of guys who wear the same letters. I felt welcomed and accepted from the moment I met the brotherhood. AGR has a great reputation on campus, and before the recruitment process started, several of my friends told me that it could be a great fit for me. The brothers also carry themselves in a very professional manner, making it clear that their priorities are to become better men as opposed to perpetuating ‘frat boy’ stereotypes. It’s a brotherhood that I am proud to be a part of.”

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS



Josh Peters
Pittsburgh, Pa. (Bethel Park)
Secondary Education Social Studies and Law



Mike Romano
Montgomery County, Pa.
Data Analytics



Josh Jackson
Harleysville, Pa.
Human Resources Management



Dylan Cornett
Buckhannon, W.V.
Geobiology



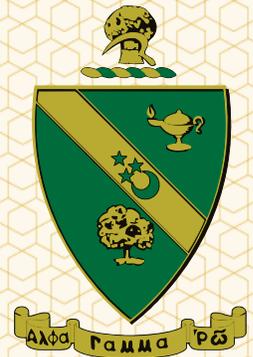
Charlie Gendron
Manchester, Mass.
Professional Golf Management



Kyle Mathues
Exton, Pa.
Business Management



Matt Loffredo
Port Washington, N.Y.
Finance



CHAPTER GOALS

We as the leaders of this fraternity made it our goal this semester to:

- 1 Increase chapter GPA.
- 2 Increase in-house membership.
- 3 Increase involvement within Penn State community.

Finding the Right People

Tom Page '86 (Γ1237) on Family, Fraternity, and the Outdoors

When considering a fraternity, bonds between friends can play an important role in recruitment. These friendships can become brotherhoods with the right fraternity experience, and that's exactly what happened for **Tom Page '86 (Γ1237)**.

“John Merenick '86 (Γ1236), Tim Carley '86 (Γ1240), and I decided to go through AGR recruitment together, and as it turned out, we all pledged together,” Tom said. “Those, and many other friendships, have kept me involved beyond my active days.” Looking back on his undergraduate years, Tom enjoyed hanging out with pledge brothers as well as going to football games and the pledge trip to the University of Vermont.

As a Gamma brother, Tom recognized the importance of networking and making connections with the right people. He graduated into a world without the internet as we know it today, which made it more challenging to find a suitable job for his environmental resource management degree.

“Network with good and smart people that you trust and those that can serve as role models to help guide and mentor you.”

Tom moved back and forth across Eastern America for the sake of his career. His path involved work with environmental/engineering consulting firms and a position for Williams doing midstream pipeline permitting in the oil and gas industry.

Through his hard work, Tom played a role in bringing private wetland/stream mitigation banking to Pennsylvania. He also earned a master's degree from WVU in wildlife/fisheries resources while still working full-time. Much like his time in Gamma, though, his career has been highlighted by the talented people he's associated with and consider friends.

Tom married his wife, Kristin, in 2001. They have two children, Sarah (18) and Cullen (16). While his last role with Gamma was secretary of the alumni board back in the '90s, Tom is proud to keep regular contact with a few pledge class members and close Gamma brothers. “For years, I hunted deer annually with brother **Shawn Abma '87 (Γ1263)** and his family, and I periodically have calls, text, or email with other brothers.”

In his free time, Tom serves as an Assistant Scout Master for his son's Boy Scout troop. The group frequently goes camping and engages in various outdoor activities. Family outings are also important to the Page family, and they enjoy skiing and ice skating when given the chance.

Alpha Gamma Rho provided Tom with a great experience in college, and he encourages undergraduates today to consider organizations on campus that could elevate their networks and life opportunities. You can connect with Tom at tapage@comcast.net.



“The memories we develop from our friendships and activities together are timeless and will never be forgotten.”

Tom Page '86 (Γ1237) with his family during their summer 2021 visit to campus.

GAMMA CRESCENT ATP

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*Read About Your
Fellow Alumni
On Page 3!*



Bob Lauffer '73 (Γ1031), Steve Ferrara '74 (Γ1048), and Frank Reist '73 (Γ1041) visit Karen and Scott Hummel '73 (Γ1040) in rehab. At the end of April, Scott was in a bad accident while pulling a heavy hay wagon downhill with a light tractor. Initially, Brother Hummel was not expected to survive, but God does make miracles. Scott is now able to feed himself, walk with a cane, and hopes to be home by the end of July.



Frank Reist '73 (Γ1041) hosts a 1970s reunion at his home in Lebanon, Pa., in August.



Clay Swackhammer '12 (Γ1602), Gene Swackhammer, Delta '57, John Merenick '86 (Γ1236), and Scott Swackhammer '83 (Γ1202) visited AGR Delta Chapter at Purdue for the Penn State vs. Purdue football game—a narrow win!