

# GAMMA CRESCENT

GAMMA CHAPTER OF ALPHA GAMMA RHO FRATERNITY AT PENN STATE | FALL 2020

## WEATHERING THE STORM

*Gamma Chapter Exemplifies Top Leadership During Pandemic*



*Jesse Hallowell '97 (Γ1392), Bob Wilson '73 (Γ1028), Ken Gross '73 (Γ1024), Bob Lauffer '73 (Γ1031), Pen Hallowell '73 (Γ1030), Jim Hallowell '73 (Γ1025), and Penny Hallowell gathered for a family funeral in November. Strong bonds carry brothers through tough times.*



*John Infantino '96 (Γ1373) buys milk from Jesse '97 (Γ1392) and Jim Hallowell '73 (Γ1025) in Bucks County!*

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ALUMNI UPDATE

It has been a strange year. The undergraduates have been thrown into a situation unlike any of our college years, that's for sure. When trying to open the chapter house this fall, the amount of uncertainty and new requirements made it hard to plan for anything. The rules changed every week, but Gamma was one of the few chapters that navigated the new standards placed on us without incident.

The alumni board has come away massively impressed by the leadership and level of responsibility shown by these brothers. **Cam Gallagher '19 (Γ1834)** as M&O deserves tremendous praise; he stepped up to the plate to ready the chapter for the new safety protocols. As a public health major, he successfully challenged some of the more nonsensical restrictions being placed on Greek life and kept the chapter following all university guidelines.

It's been interesting talking to the active brothers because despite the lack of news coverage, it sounds like COVID-19 flew through the student body. They think between 30-80% of PSU students got COVID this semester, but avoided getting tested because of the repercussions. If diagnosed with a positive test, the university required students to totally isolate for 14 days in a special "jail-like" dorm and have their social lives combed over and contact-

traced. Right or wrong, the prevailing student mentality was to go undiagnosed to avoid the restrictions, so COVID spread all over campus without being reflected in the PSU statistics.

Naturally, our brothers followed all COVID-19 regulations. Of those who caught it, they reported one day of sickness and then recovered; none of our members have had any medical complications. Ah, to be young.

Unfortunately, due to the mandatory university closure at Thanksgiving and the added costs of weekly cleaning and Plexiglas, the chapter budget is \$35,000 short of what was expected—even after major cost-cutting. Currently, the spring is projected to be significantly short as well. Please consider donating to help Gamma navigate through the spring; we could really use some alumni support right now.

Thanks, and I hope everyone is staying safe.

Fraternally,

**Jon Tabolt '06 (Γ1522)**

Alumni President

(267) 568-4790 | jonathan.tabolt@gmail.com

## CATCHING UP WITH BRIAN “COWHEAD” MILLER '83 (Γ1198)

I pledged ATP in the last winter pledge class before Penn State transitioned from the trimester system to the current semester system (1982-83). I got my AGR nickname of “Cowhead” from my pledge buddies; my major at Penn State was ag related (computer science—just starting to be used in agriculture at the time), and in college my hair was quite curly and a bit wild. So, one of my pledge buddies said, “You look like a cow’s head!” and my new name was born! I think many of those brothers have probably forgotten my real name.

The mid-1980s were a great time at Gamma Chapter. We had a full house of brothers who worked hard at keeping the chapter house clean and looking nice. At least once a month, we had a weekend work session to deep clean an area of the house, fix areas that needed repairs, or work on the big job of re-waxing the floors in the Great Hall. Many brothers were active in events on Ag Hill, and we actively participated in intramural activities. We were quite good at both volleyball (thanks to the after-dinner games every evening on our volleyball court), basketball, and flag football.

We were also active in philanthropic events such as the Phi Psi 500. We won Best Team Costume one year; we finalized the idea about an hour before the event! One brother donned an apron from the kitchen, we painted a piece of cardboard red, and the rest of us used a black sharpie marker to draw giant bar codes on our white t-shirts. As we passed the judges’ stand, the aproned brother acted as a cashier, the others of us dropped to the ground and rolled across the red cardboard while making



a loud “beep” sound as if we were being scanned, and the cashier put a garbage bag over us as if to bag us up. Since UPC scanning was brand new at the time, our concept was quite a hit and we won the category!

After college, I took a job at DuPont in the IT department, and then moved to Computer Sciences Corporation (now DXC Technology), consulting and working in sales solutioning to help various companies improve their IT function. I have always enjoyed helping other companies meet their business needs, and based on my experiences with AGR, I could relate to the needs of many of the agriculture-related companies I worked with (DuPont Agricultural Products, Pioneer Seed, Dow Chemical, and John Deere, to name a few). I was also active with the Gamma Alumni Association as vice president for few years in the late '80s and early '90s. My father, **Reid Miller '62 (Γ826)**, and brother, **Daryl Miller '88 (Γ1267)**, also passed through 322 Fraternity Row during their college careers.

Today, I live in northern Delaware with my wife, Anita. We have two grown children who are both married and each have two young children with whom we enjoy spending our time! Retirement is in sight, but not quite yet for me. When retirement does come, I hope to travel a bit to see more of the country, and maybe some other interesting parts of the world.

*Brian can be reached at [bmille22@comcast.net](mailto:bmille22@comcast.net).*

## Supporting an Overseas Brother



In September, alumni prepared and sent care packages to Captain **Nate Bevans '11 (Γ1590)** and his entire unit overseas.

“I got back from a mission one night and had 50 boxes waiting in our mailroom,” Nate said. “It was outstanding and such a morale boost to be able to go around to each soldier’s door and hand out boxes. Each soldier was so very grateful. Some of these guys have not received anything from home, nor will they. For them to know someone is thinking of them means the world.”

What incredible generosity. The ATP brotherhood truly knows no bounds (or borders)!



*Gamma alumni prepare care packages for Nate Bevans '11 (Γ1590). From left: Ray Sheaffer '87 (Γ1251), Jay Van Deusen '83 (Γ1192), Jon Schroer '90 (Γ1289), Rick Lower '83 (Γ1201), Rick Hess '77 (Γ1092), Ken Dietz '77 (Γ1103), Dane Lauver '90 (Γ1288), and Mark Mellinger '82 (Γ1183). Photo taken by Lori Lauver.*

# GAMMA CHAPTER THANKS YOU

*Dedicated Alumni Keep AGR a Top Fraternity in This Time of COVID-19*

We are incredibly grateful for the 156 generous alumni and friends who contributed \$49,390 to Gamma in 2020. These brothers, along with our other steadfast alumni and friends who have contributed to Gamma since the beginning of our annual campaign in 2012, recognize the importance of securing the future of AGR at Penn State. We are extra grateful this year as we all have had to adapt to the struggles and changes brought about from COVID-19, and your support in this time just goes to show the bond of our brotherhood.

Below is the list of donors who have given to the recent appeal organized by initiation year. Giving level is based on cumulative giving to the annual campaign. If an error has been made in recording the amount of your gift, please contact our campaign coordinator at (785) 843-1661. Thank you for your continued support!

## 1910 Founders Member

*(\$5,000 and up)*

John Z. Shearer '48 (Γ586)  
Brian T. Sarris '69 (Γ960)

## Gamma Chapter Member

*(\$2,500 to \$4,999)*

William H. Yerkes III '49 (Γ592)  
Ronald Fetrow '81 (Γ1169)  
Eric Wagner '83 (Γ1194)  
Thomas Olliver '91 (Γ1313)  
Matthew Keil '00 (Γ1446)

## Pink Rose Member

*(\$1,000 to \$2,499)*

Robert D. Heilman '56 (Γ717)  
Richard Dommel '57 (Γ736)  
Richard S. Carpenter '59 (Γ774)  
Wilbur L. Avril '61 (Γ819)  
James Schneck '68 (Γ927)  
Rick G. Steinmeyer '69 (Γ968)  
Stephen W. Wharton '75 (Γ1063)  
Harry R. Harkcom '77 (Γ1096)  
Gary Schroder '75 (Γ1071)  
Thomas K. Brosius '77 (Γ1106)  
Jay Shannon '78 (Γ1117)  
Thomas G. Shortess '79 (Γ1134)  
Dennis Toomey '79 (Γ1136)  
Brian Miller '83 (Γ1198)  
John D. Merenick '86 (Γ1236)  
Daryl Miller '88 (Γ1267)  
Jon J. Schroer '90 (Γ1289)  
Timothy Doberstein '98 (Γ1417)  
Carlos Rascon '02 (Γ1487)  
Robert Wagner '03 (Γ1493)

## Common Bond Member

*(\$500 to \$999)*

Robert Gleyze  
John R. Akers '55 (Γ692)  
William P. Moore '55 (Γ694)  
G. Richard Olmstead '56 (Γ715)  
Richard C. McDonald Jr. '58 (Γ746)  
Franklin S. Ace '60 (Γ795)

Wallace Haulik '61 (Γ820)  
Russell J. Mitchell '62 (Γ825)  
Frederick Davis '63 (Γ842)  
Robert L. Storch '64 (Γ874)  
Dr. Jon Bayer (Γ875)  
Joseph Strite '65 (Γ889)  
Rex R. Richards '69 (Γ949)  
Theodore E. Farrand '69 (Γ946)  
George Myatich '69 (Γ965)  
Wayne Martenas '72 (Γ1022)  
Herbert W. Cole '74 (Γ1054)  
P. Chan Hood '76 (Γ1091)  
Kenneth Dietz '77 (Γ1103)  
Timothy J. Edmond '78 (Γ1113)  
Gregory C. Gnat '78 (Γ1116)  
David Flack '82 (Γ1179)  
John Van Deusen '83 (Γ1192)  
Timothy Carley '86 (Γ1240)  
Dane A. Lauer '90 (Γ1288)  
David Stiles '98 (Γ1416)  
Nicholas Martin '99 (Γ1425)  
Keith Bowman '00 (Γ1440)  
David T. Winters '06 (Γ1523)  
Sean Gunning '12 (Γ1595)

## Friends of Gamma Member

*(\$100 to \$499)*

William C. Nichol '50 (Γ603)  
Charles D. Carlson '56 (Γ726)  
Gerald M. Lyter '59 (Γ763)  
Michael E. Matsko '59 (Γ772)  
Ronald Muse '61 (Γ800)  
Harold Smith '62 (Γ838)  
Daniel Swavely '64 (Γ871)  
George Brown '64 (Γ878)  
Phillip M. Pitzer '65 (Γ884)  
David Geise '66 (Γ903)  
Robert L. Firestone '66 (Γ911)  
Craig Alig '68 (Γ935)  
Clair C. Anderson '69 (Γ958)  
Jeffrey Ott '70 (Γ980)  
John P. Palmieri '71 (Γ995)  
John Johnston '71 (Γ1000)  
Jeffrey A. Krantz '73 (Γ1026)  
Lynn D. McMillen '73 (Γ1033)

Frank Reist '73 (Γ1041)  
Dennis Crider '74 (Γ1052)  
David Cramer '75 (Γ1069)  
Michael J. Wallace '76 (Γ1089)  
Joseph L. Naughton '80 (Γ1151)  
Todd Grice '81 (Γ1154)  
Timothy Lessner '82 (Γ1175)  
Alan Daum '82 (Γ1173)  
Robert A. Kurilla '82 (Γ1180)  
Rob Dillon '82 (Γ1181)  
Mark Mellinger '82 (Γ1183)  
Kevin Culver '82 (Γ1189)  
Gregg Driscoll '86 (Γ1249)  
Raymond P. Sheaffer Jr. '87 (Γ1251)  
Michael Schwoyer '87 (Γ1261)  
Scott Steinkirchner '88 (Γ1272)  
Robert Good '88 (Γ1275)  
Henry Mullen '89 (Γ1285)  
Christopher McIntosh '92 (Γ1315)  
John Borst '94 (Γ1345)  
Jonathan Costa '94 (Γ1353)  
Jeremy Lettich '94 (Γ1354)  
Bryan Dillehay '98 (AO1144)  
Adam Segalow '99 (Γ1424)  
Jeffrey J. Pizutti '00 (Γ1448)  
Greg E. Eisner '03 (Γ1490)  
David L. Thomas '03 (Γ1494)  
Nicholas A. Ennis '04 (Γ1503)  
Benjamin D. Baker '06 (Γ1518)  
Jonathan T. Tabolt '06 (Γ1522)  
Eric W. Hewitt '06 (Γ1526)  
Aaron C. Clark '07 (Γ1530)  
John D. Conrad '08 (Γ1536)  
Austin M. Stein '09 (Γ1546)  
Ryan McClafferty '09 (Γ1548)  
Thomas G. Dillon '09 (Γ1551)  
Robert Wierman '09 (Γ1552)  
John Lysowski '09 (Γ1559)  
Tyler McDonough '11 (Γ1577)  
Vincent J. Nicchi '11 (Γ1581)  
Francisco X. Reluzco '11 (Γ1584)  
Sean M. Sweeney '11 (Γ1587)  
Jakob D. Moore '11 (Γ1589)  
Samuel N. Black '11 (Γ1592)

Kevin Brennan '12 (Γ1613)  
Andrew G. Saba '12 (Γ1621)  
Matt DiSanto '12 (Γ1622)  
Shae A. Ferguson '12 (Γ1624)  
Kurt Dehnert '13 (Γ1628)  
Michael Cameron '13 (Γ1631)  
Sarp Engelman '13 (Γ1651)  
Dylan J. Lord '13 (Γ1654)  
Matthew J. Schultz '14 (Γ1666)  
John F. Tierney Jr. '14 (Γ1670)  
Thomas A. Mahan '14 (Γ1677)  
Robert S. McLaren '15 (Γ1701)  
Frank Rambala '15 (Γ1706)  
Erik Feeney '15 (Γ1709)  
John L. Lawler '15

## Alumni Member

*(Up to \$99)*

Anonymous  
Nancy Maguire  
In memory of  
Edward "Tiger" Maguire '66 (Γ910)  
Bruce Hopkins '39 (Γ428)  
Kenneth Soergel '60 (Γ787)  
Paul T. Martin '66 (Γ802)  
Bob Lauffer '73 (Γ1031)  
Barrett Wolf '01 (Γ1469)  
Carl Anderson IV '05 (Γ1508)  
Tyler J. Prutzman '07 (Γ1533)  
Joey Cassidy '08 (Γ1537)  
Steve Eckert '08 (Γ1540)  
Jordan Rolon '10 (Γ1565)  
Joshua Salvisburg '11 (Γ1579)  
Bradley Nixon '12 (Γ1597)  
Brandon Camarre '12 (Γ1598)  
Gregory Surine '12 (Γ1603)  
Kevin Fogarty '12 (Γ1604)  
Michael Grzywacz '12 (Γ1617)  
Timothy F. Smith '15 (Γ1710)  
Patrick Schlupp '15 (Γ1713)  
Carl D. Ramsey '15 (Γ1728)  
Thomas Conroy '16 (Γ1730)  
Nicholas Smith '16 (Γ1737)



*Brothers gather in front of the Nittany Lion statue in hopes of a game day win.*



*THON Chairmen A.J. Mastrangelo '19 (Γ1839) and Mike Donohue '18 (Γ1806) at the THON 5K with members from our partner sorority, Phi Sigma Sigma.*

# NEW LEADERS LOOK FORWARD TO THE NEW YEAR

Gamma Chapter Continues Generosity and Success

Going into this semester, we knew that Gamma Chapter would continue to face challenges with the COVID-19 pandemic. Thanks to the incredible generosity and support of our alumni, we were able to significantly lower our financial losses for the fall. We also entered this semester with an improved and pristine chapter house thanks to our VNR of maintenance and operations, **Camerin Gallagher '19 (Γ1834)**. For this aggressive effort, Camerin was the first brother to win the brand-new Alpha Gamma Rho Cam Gallagher Trophy for Brother of the Year.

The university has once again given students the option to pass/fail classes instead of counting them toward their GPAs, so we're expecting another semester of higher GPAs and more brothers making the Dean's List. While there have been limitations on events during these odd times, we still managed to organize fundraisers as well as THON events while following the COVID-19 guidelines and regulations. Over the summer, we had a successful raffle fundraiser, donating the money raised to small businesses affected by this year's hardships.



*VNR Camerin Gallagher '19 (Γ1834) holding the new Cam Gallagher Trophy, awarded to the Alpha Gamma Rho Brother of the Year for his amazing restoration and maintenance on the house.*

We have also taken other philanthropic steps through social media, which has become a main outlet for us during the pandemic. While recruitment has definitely changed, being all virtual, we added eight new members into our brotherhood, totaling 97 brothers this semester. We held our exec elections and will be doing a modified term for the next Noble Ruler to better adapt to the post-COVID world. I will continue to serve through the spring, and **Dylan Patrick '20 (Γ1850)** will be our next Noble Ruler in the fall of 2021.

I have high hopes for this next executive board, and I'm confident we will expand on what we've already accomplished and further improve as a fraternity.

Fraternally,  
**Patrick Fitzsimmons '19 (Γ1817)**

Noble Ruler  
patrickfitz26@gmail.com  
(862) 268-0938

## Chapter Officers

Noble Ruler  
**Patrick Fitzsimmons '19**  
patrickfitz26@gmail.com  
(862) 268-0938

VNR Alumni Relations  
**Carson Lortz '19**

VNR Planning  
**Nick Moore '19**

VNR Finance  
**Ben Hankey '19**

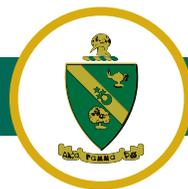
VNR Maintenance and Operations  
**Camerin Gallagher '19**

VNR Recruitment  
**Will De Filippis '18**  
wdefilippis908@gmail.com  
(908) 528-6124

VNR Activities  
**Zach Labrecque '19**

VNR Scholarship  
**Mike Donohue '18**

VNR Membership Development  
**Declan Evans '19**



## WELCOME, FALL NEW MEMBERS

**Ryan Ackerman**  
*Scotch Plains, N.J.*

**Andrew Alvarez**  
*Montclair, N.J.*

**Andrew DiSanto\***  
*Malvern, Pa.*

**Nick Galullo**  
*Plymouth Meeting, Pa.*

**Tyler Lueders**  
*Stamford, Conn.*

**Sam McCullough**  
*West Chester, Pa.*

**Joseph Smith**  
*Middletown, N.J.*

**Nick Whitman**  
*Readington, Pa.*

## ALUMNI UPDATE

### CHAPTER ETERNAL

**Lowell N. Lewis** entered Chapter Eternal in July 2020. After military service and graduate education, Lowell served at UC Riverside as a research dean of the College of Agricultural and Biological Resources. He was responsible for departmental expansion as well as new buildings on the Riverside campus, and would often travel with his family to international conferences. Lowell then worked at Berkeley as the VP of agriculture and natural resources and director of the Agricultural Experiment Station. After a rewarding 30-year career with the university, and serving at the time as a vice president in administration, he chose early retirement. Lowell lived a gracious and productive life. He established memorable friendships everywhere he lived and was content with the simple pleasures of life. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

**Chuck Glidden '57 (F739)** entered Chapter Eternal on June 18. Chuck, Uncle Chuck, Dad, Grandpa—doesn't matter the name—he was a valued member of his family and will always be remembered as such. Supportive, compassionate, dedicated, respected, loving: these are only some of the words his family and friends use to describe the footprint he left on this world. He was an avid Penn State sports fan, attending many home/away football games and several bowl games with Linda. They were both active co-treasurers/members of the board of directors of the Penn State Club of Greater Binghamton and lifetime members of the Penn State Alumni Association. Some of his proudest moments were being an integral part of the Susquehanna community.

**Henry Berger '54 (F682)** entered Chapter Eternal on March 21 in Lebanon, Pa. He was a founding member of the Lebanon Valley Exposition Board and served for 39 years. He was also an active member and volunteer of the Lebanon Area Fair Board for many years. He served eight years on the Annville-Cleona School Board of Directors as secretary/president and served on the Agricultural Advisory Board for Fulton Bank.

**Simon Garber '55 (F697)** entered Chapter Eternal on May 27, 2019. He completed his bachelor's degree in agronomy in 1957, his master's in rural sociology in 1967, and his Ph.D. in rural sociology in 1980. His years at Penn State were memorable, and he continued to support Alpha Gamma Rho and the alumni association in the years following his graduation. He was involved in agricultural work while in the Peace Corps in El Salvador in the early '60s. He finished his career in rural sociology and leadership working for NCSU, retiring in 1990.

**Wyatt Gosnell '61 (F806)** entered Chapter Eternal at his home on January 31. Wyatt earned his B.S. and M.S. in animal husbandry and food science respectively from Penn State. His career began as a farm manager at Torrance State Hospital in Pennsylvania. He then moved to Virginia and worked in quality control for Southland Corp. He returned to his true love of farming, operating his family sheep farm in Mitchells, Va., and ended his work career at Belvedere Plantation working part time right up until this last pumpkin season. Upon retirement, Wyatt focused his energy on the rescue side of Lake of the Woods Fire and Rescue. He initially completed the training to be an ambulance driver only to find out that his heart condition disqualified him from that position. He trained and worked as an EMT until declining health forced him to put all his energy into fundraising for the squad. He was proud of the work he did on the annual fund drive and advertising in the Lake of the Woods directory. He earned Lifetime Member status with the Lake of the Woods Rescue Squad.

### ALUMNI NEWS

**William H. Yerkes III '49 (F592)** reports that coronavirus has him penned up in southeast Pennsylvania. He enjoys retirement and stays busy mowing grass and gardening. The spring was wet and cold.

**John S. Whitesell '53 (F664)** is at Homewood in Martinsburg, Pa. His wife, Mary Jane, passed away in 2017. He keeps busy with the kids, grandkids, and great-grandkids. He says that retirement is for the birds. Email: ppyjsmjw@gmail.com

**Larry Ridenour '56 (F729)** retired from landscape architecture. He has been married for 35 years and has two sons and six grandchildren. Among his many accomplishments is the development of the Great Allegheny Passage and Montour rail-trails. Larry lives in Lexington, Ky. Email: llridenour@twc.com

**Kenneth Soergel '60 (F787)** is still consulting in landscape architecture. He lives in Jonesborough, Tenn. Email: kpsoergel@gmail.com

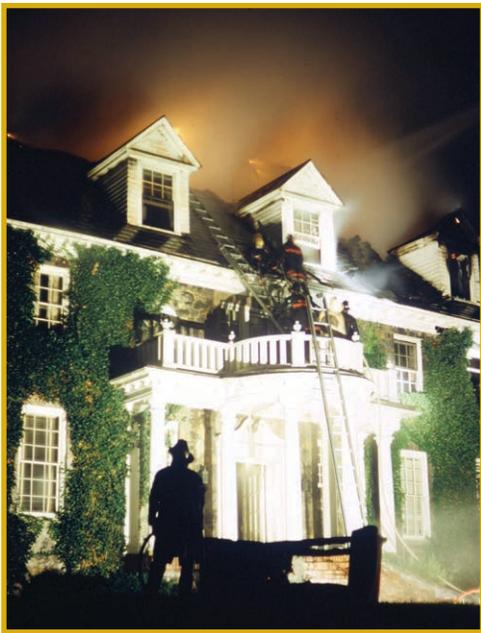
**Rick Steinmeyer '69 (F968)** won a recent election to become mayor of Bonita Springs, Fla. Congratulations, Brother Steinmeyer!

**Thomas G. Shortess '79 (F1134)** retired from Farm Service Agency in 2011 after working for the agency for 28 years. He enjoys gardening and taking care of his only grandson. Thomas lives in Jackson, Tenn.

# Jim Kessler '66 (Γ905) Recalls the Chapter House Fire

In the summer, I was the only brother staying in chapter house. It was the summer of the forestry summer school/camp, and there were several teachers renting rooms for the summer term.

One night, I was awakened by someone yelling, "FIRE!" My initial reaction was to assume a false alarm; but as the yelling continued, I thought I should go investigate. As I opened my room door, the hallway was filled with smoke. I opened each door along the hallway to check if anyone was there.



On the third floor, the smoke level was about three feet high. I found one of the teachers asleep and unresponsive; I grabbed him by the shirt collar and dragged him down the stairwell. As he was bouncing down the stairs he began to gasp for air. By the time we got to the bottom, he was breathing pretty well, and help was arriving. I was able to go back up to my room and get an armload of books, clothes, and other stuff. At that point, the heat was prohibitive, and I just watched the firemen do their work.

The next semester, Gamma rented the Nittany dorms for housing.

Fraternally,  
**Jim Kessler '66 (Γ905)**

# GAMMA CRESCENT

Gamma Chapter Alumni Association  
P.O. Box 102  
Mexico, PA 17056-0102

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*ATTENTION: This newsletter is intended for alumni, undergraduates, and parents. If your son is still attending Penn State, he will receive a copy at the chapter house. If he has graduated, please send us his permanent address to update our records. Thank you.*

## Connect with Gamma Online



Chapter Website  
[www.agrgamma.com](http://www.agrgamma.com)



Chapter Twitter  
[@AGRPennState](https://twitter.com/AGRPennState)