

GAMMA CRESCENT

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

A Word from Our New Board President

UPCOMING EVENTS, CHAPTER HOUSE PLANS, AND MORE

I would like to introduce myself to those who do not know me, introduce new board members, and give you some updates on activities at the house and within the alumni group.

My name is **John Merenick '86 (Γ1236)**, and I took over the board president position in January 2022. I would like to send a big thank-you to **Jon Tabolt '06 (Γ1522)** for his years on the board and serving as president these past few years. Jon has chosen to step down from the board to spend more time with his wife and work on growing his family. Thanks again, Jon!

Along with my new position as board president, we have two new members joining the board. We welcome newly elected brothers **Todd Grice '81 (Γ1154)** and **John Conrad '08 (Γ1536)** and look forward to working with them on new ideas for Gamma Chapter.

Our Founder's Day business meeting was held on a Zoom call, and we also held an in-person Founder's Day gathering over Blue-White Weekend. Thank you to all who participated and helped. **A reminder that the AGR National Convention will be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on July 27-29.** I plan on attending and welcome all other Gamma alumni that will be in attendance.

The alumni board plans on holding some alumni tailgates during the 2022 Penn State football season. I will be hosting an away tailgate at Purdue on September 1, 2022. **If others are interested in helping us for the 2022 football season, home or away, please reach out.**

Some areas we have been working on at the house include a new water heater for the house, repairs to the TV room ceiling, and repairs to a burst radiator in the Rho-mate room. The actives were able to obtain some furniture for Great Hall to help get us through the next couple of years. For the future, we will be looking to invest in new Great Hall furniture and dining room tables and chairs. Please consider helping us financially with this project.

I would like to encourage all to become involved with the Gamma alumni group. We are always accepting help, and you can assist in many ways. Some give their time, others can give their expertise and advice, and some 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)



Our beloved chapter house.



Gamma alumni on Founder's Day weekend. From left: Gwen Belding (wife of Matt and Little Sister), Nate Nourse '86 (Γ1235), John Merenick '86 (Γ1236), John Dicamillo '85 (Γ1229), Len Valenti '84 (Γ1218), Matthew Belding '85 (Γ1222), Todd Grice '81 (Γ1154), and Tim Carley '86 (r1240).



Penrose Hallowell '73 (Γ1030) and Ken Gross '73 (Γ1024) (fishing together since 1972!) on the first day of trout season.



Alumni brothers on Founder's Day weekend. From left: Tim Carley '86 (Γ1240), John Dicamillo '85 (Γ1229), and John Merenick '86 (Γ1236).

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GRADUATING SENIORS!



On Saturday, February 26, brothers of Alpha Gamma Rho decided to take a picture amidst celebrating State Patty's. The brotherhood event consisted of games, music, and good times.



The spring 2021 pledge class regroups on the steps of Alpha Gamma Rho on April 10, 2022. It has been about a year since these fine gentlemen have been inducted into Alpha Gamma Rho. Happy anniversary, boys!

EXECUTIVE



Noble Ruler **Tyler Giese '21 (Γ1878)**

tyler.c.giese.2002@gmail.com

I am a sophomore 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 will 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.



VNR Membership Development **Sean Clark '21 (Γ1875)**

seandclark35@gmail.com

I am a junior 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 very lucky to have a big class of 22 new members for this spring 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 men bring to the future of this house.



VNR Finance **Chris Deitrich '21 (Γ1876)**

chris13@ptd.net

I'm a sophomore from Allentown, Pa., pursuing a bachelor's degree in finance and minor in psychology. I became interested in VNR finance during my first semester as a brother last fall. I believed it to be an essential aspect of our chapter's success, and I personally wanted to gain a better understanding of my own financial commitments to the chapter. I've gained an intimate understanding of our chapter's needs from a financial perspective, and I have tried to implement thrifty, ethical

financial practices to the best of my ability. I've enjoyed budgeting for the semester; discussing details of our finances with my executive board, active undergraduate brothers, and our Gamma alumni board; and trying my best to ensure everyone enjoys their time with us as much as possible. Next semester, I look forward to finding new and more efficient ways to fund our chapter and, of course, enjoying my first semester living in Gamma Chapter's house.



VNR Activities **Sam Pedone '21 (Γ1886)**

sam235ped@gmail.com

I am a sophomore 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 Maintenance and Operations **David Lukac '21 (Γ1880)**

dhlukac22@gmail.com

I am currently a sophomore and am still in the division of undergraduate studies, but I intend on studying civil engineering. I am from Pittsburgh, Pa., about 10 minutes north of downtown North Hills. 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 active. We were blessed with a beautiful house both inside and out, and I am proud to be able to keep it that way as best as possible. I am looking forward to finishing this semester strong and having a great second half of my executive term in the fall.

BOARD



VNR Recruitment **Aidan O'Leary '21 (Γ1884)**

aoleary888@gmail.com

I am a sophomore from Southborough, Mass., studying finance with a minor in sports studies. 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 22 new members, all of which are fine young men, and I'm excited to see what they do in the house. Coming up for next fall, we plan to implement a similar week, doing events like dodgeball and poker nights, to get the competitive side of the new members going.



VNR Alumni Relations **Robert Zelley '21 (Γ1889)**

20robertzelley@gmail.com

I am a sophomore from Hunterdon County, N.J., now living in Easton, Pa. I chose to run because I love what this fraternity has brought me, and I thought this would be a great opportunity to be involved within the house and meet those who have brought the house to where it is. I also know that our alumni are very involved, which is something I admire and am thankful for, knowing this was the main incentive for me to run for this position. This semester has gone well for me and my duties, and I was really excited for everyone to be together in our beautiful house for Founder's Day for the first time since 2019. It was great for brothers and new associates to meet alumni and learn from each other. Thank you, **John Merenick '86 (Γ1236)**, for all the planning that you did; it was a great day! The opportunity to sit in on an alumni meeting was great and very informative as well. Shout out to all the alumni who attended via Zoom.



VNR Planning **Ryan Macosko '21 (Γ1881)**

ryanmacosko@icloud.com

I am a sophomore from Lansdale, Pa., majoring in supply chain with a minor in information systems management. Things are all good in my area as VNR Planning. Throughout the semester, we have completed two blood drives with the Red Cross. Approximately 20 brothers both volunteered at the drive and donated blood themselves. We gained around 40 service hours for each blood drive, and both went as well as possible. We also had a clothing drive during our Parent's Weekend, where I asked brothers and parents to donate clothes which I then donated to Salvation Army. The school gave us an additional 20 hours of community service for this philanthropic event. We are looking to improve our standards of excellence performance from past years, and things are going smoothly so far. I have delegated each member of the executive board their required duties and forms to turn in to make sure we meet standards of excellence in all areas of the house. Overall, the semester has been going great, and I'm excited for another great semester in the fall.



VNR Scholarship **Matthew Berkenstock '21 (Γ1870)**

I am studying biorenewable systems with the bioproducts option. I am from Lancaster, Pa., and I am intending to graduate in May 2023. My main job, apart from my executive position, is to make sure the new members are performing well in school and becoming better men. Since most of the new pledge class are freshmen and have only been through one semester of college, I have talked with them to see what path they want to take to reach their specific goals. I try to ensure this by having mandatory study hours during the weekdays so that they can make completing homework a top priority. In addition to study hours, I have also made the new pledge class create proper resumés and sign up for scholarships. The new members are showing promise and are on the right path to becoming better men. This semester has been enjoyable and a learning experience, and hopefully next semester will be even better!



Winter does not rest in State College, and neither does beauty. Alpha Gamma Rho stands blissfully in the snow flurry on April 18.



The weekend of February 18 for multiple Gamma men was spent standing for 46 hours. An event that Penn State is famous for and that many students hold pride in being a part of, THON was a success this year with a new donation high. Here, our new members are seen holding Alpha Gamma Rho and Phi Sigma Sigma letters high and proud in their packed section.



Brothers accompanying their dates to the dance floor, also known as the Great Hall, in a festive formal to end the fall 2021 semester on December 10. Many brothers stepped up to create a decorated and vibrant environment for this night.

LEARN A LITTLE ABOUT OUR NEW MEMBERS!



Nick Bjorgen: I am a freshman from Amherst, Conn., and am studying mechanical engineering. In my my free time, I like to hang out with friends, play video games, and go skiing.



Matthew Burger: I am a freshman student from Chicago, Ill., and am currently a human-centered design and development major. In my free time, I enjoy watching sports and cooking.



Zach Cunningham: I am from Queensbury, N.Y., and am currently a freshman studying mechanical engineering. My hobbies include skiing, hunting, sports, and boating.



Vincent Diaco: I'm from Washington Township, N.J., and am currently a sophomore studying finance with an intended minor in supply chain and IST. My hobbies include going to the beach, powerlifting, and investing in my own portfolio.



Hunter Eberhardt: I am from Wyomissing, Pa., in the Berks County area, and am currently a freshman with intentions of pursuing a business management degree. My hobbies include playing sports, lifting weights, and hanging out with my friends.



Lucas Elder: I am a freshman from Pittsburgh, Pa., pursuing management information systems at the Smeal College of Business. I enjoy lots of outdoor activities such as surfing, snowboarding, and golf.



Jack Fialko: I am a freshman from Malvern, Pa., planning on majoring in accounting, and a few of my hobbies include snowboarding, skateboarding, and playing golf.



Dylan Gardner: I am a sophomore from Harrisburg, Pa., studying industrial engineering, and in my free time, I like to play lacrosse, video games, work out, and spend time with friends.



Jonah Gilston: I am a freshman from Rockland County, N.Y.



Brady Haines: I am a freshman from Buffalo, N.Y., studying computer science, and in my free time, I like to ski, play lacrosse, and hang out with friends.



Jared Hollfelder: I am a freshman from Montville, N.J., majoring in computer science. I enjoy snowboarding and working on cars.



Liam Keisling: I am an undecided freshman from Downingtown, Pa., who likes to play soccer and hang out with my friends.



Tommy Klusarits: I am a freshman from Newtown Square, Pa. I am technically undecided for a major, but plan on majoring in marketing. I like to play football, lift weights, and hang out with friends.



Austin Lord: I am a freshman legacy initiate from Wall, N.J. I am a broadcast journalism major, and in my free time, I enjoy working out.



Donavyn Martinez: I am a freshman intending to pursue a degree in political science. I am originally from Fresno, Calif., which you might know as a major producer of agricultural products such as grapes and almonds. In my free time, I enjoy spending time with friends, working out, snowboarding during the winter and, most importantly, competing in division one fencing here at Penn State.



Malcolm Mayanja: I am a freshman from Bedford, Mass., majoring in finance who loves playing tennis and basketball, learning as much as I can about the stock market, and taking care of my siblings.



Christopher Meredith: I am a freshman from Hillsborough, N.J., right outside of Princeton. My intended major is accounting, and some hobbies of mine include trying new food and lifting.



Jett Neily: I am a freshman from King of Prussia, Pa., currently in the division of undergraduate studies; however, I intend on studying finance. In my free time, I enjoy snowboarding, traveling, and spending time with my friends.



Jake Nelson: I am a freshman from York, Pa., studying supply chain management. In my free time, I enjoy fly fishing, lifting, and hunting.



Anthony Polisseni: I'm a freshman from Rochester, N.Y. My intended major is corporate innovation and entrepreneurship. In my free time, I like to play hockey, golf, and spend time with my family.



Johnny Reda: I am a freshman who is currently undecided, but I am intending to major in finance. I am from Westchester, N.Y. A few hobbies of mine include playing sports, hanging with my friends, and watching movies.



Evan Ruocco: I am from Westchester, N.Y., and am a freshman studying marketing and documentary filmmaking. In my free time, I enjoy snowboarding, mountain biking, cliff jumping, and soccer.

Alumni Updates

CHAPTER ETERNAL

- Dick Dempster '51 (Γ628)** – March 9, 2022
Richard Havens '56 (Γ722) – November 1, 2021
Sid Smith '58 (Γ750) – August 23, 2021
Larry “Sam” Spencer '59 (Γ761)
 – December 22, 2021
David Arkwright '61 (Γ815) – January 28, 2022
Arthur Moeller '63 (Γ844) – August 13, 2021
David Geise '66 (Γ903) – February 3, 2022

ALUMNI NEWS

What three words best describe Alpha Gamma Rho?

- “Molder of men; leading PSU fraternity; wonderful memories.” –**Bill Yerkes '49 (Γ592)**
 “Friendships, support.” –**Bill Nichol '50 (Γ603)**
 “Brotherhood, maturity, lasting relationships”
 –**Larry “Sam” Spencer '59 (Γ761)**
 “Brotherhood, lasting friendships.”
 –**Fred Davis '62 (Γ842)**
 “Friendship, fellowship, brotherhood.”
 –**Dick Mitchell Jr. '62 (Γ799)**
 “Supportive brothers, academic focus, good times.” –**David Wilson '62 (Γ837)**
 “Agriculture, God, fraternity.”
 –**Joseph Strite '65 (Γ889)**
 “Honesty.” –**Rick Steinmeyer '69 (Γ968)**
 “Brotherhood, family, lifelong.”
 –**Lynn Dietrich '70 (Γ987)**
 “Brotherhood, friendship, fun.”
 –**Dave Cramer '75 (Γ1069)**
 “Bond, honor, brotherhood.”
 –**Brian “Hacksaw” Hensel '93 (Γ1327)**

What are your favorite memories from living at the Gamma Chapter house?

- “Good food, clean house. Wonderful brotherhood. Created lifelong friendships.”
 –**Bill Yerkes '49 (Γ592)**
 “Group participation.” –**Bill Nichol '50 (Γ603)**
 “One big family.” –**Larry “Sam” Spencer '59 (Γ761)**
 “Being Noble Ruler, plus too many more to mention.” –**Fred Davis '62 (Γ842)**
 “Fellowship and common interest.”
 –**Dick Mitchell Jr. '62 (Γ799)**
 “Academic support, great social events, and winning the IFC Sing competition.”
 –**David Wilson '62 (Γ837)**
 “Surviving the year with the summer house fire when we had to live at Nittany Hall. The people who ran the house, including the cook and the janitor, Mrs. K.” –**Joseph Strite '65 (Γ889)**
 “Mentors.” –**Rick Steinmeyer '69 (Γ968)**
 “Dinners together and chapter meetings.”
 –**Lynn Dietrich '70 (Γ987)**
 “Jammies on Friday nights, Becky’s cooking, always someone to talk to.”
 –**Dave Cramer '75 (Γ1069)**
 “Pink Rose Formal, “T”, Homecoming, and Queen Be and her band at the chapter house.”
 –**Brian “Hacksaw” Hensel '93 (Γ1327)**



Todd Grice '81 (Γ1154) with his family.

Greetings, Aggers!
 I often think of our shared purpose as brothers of AGP: To Make Better Men. My years at Penn State, and specifically at AGP, truly have been the foundation of my success as a husband, parent, and business leader.

I am currently vice president of sales for OraSure Technologies, headquartered in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. For those of you unfamiliar with OraSure, we empower people to live and discover healthier lives by creating effortless diagnostic tests, collection kits, and services. You can find both our COVID test, IntelliSwab®, and our HIV test, OraQuick®, at major retail pharmacies nationwide!

I am now serving on the alumni board after many years of not being as connected with the house. My wife, Jane (PSU 1985, Kappa Delta Theta), and I live in Jeffersonville, Vermont. Our entire family is a PSU family—our son, Luke, graduated in 2012 and is currently teaching English at Cumberland Valley in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, and our daughter, Torie, graduated in 2014 and is currently a senior brand marketing manager at Turtle Fur in Morrisville, Vermont.

I still have strong roots in agriculture. My two brothers still operate a family dairy farm in Washington, Pennsylvania—they plan to retire in 2022! Our family gathers every year in July

at the farm for our family reunion. When we went on our pledge trip in winter 1981, my mom and dad hosted our motley crew for a quick meal on our way back to PSU!

My years at AGP have provided me with the BEST lifelong friends. A group of 10 of us, graduating between 1983-87, gather every year for a PSU game. We have been doing this since 1992.

When we started this annual trip (my family calls it “Boys Weekend”), we stayed in the rack at the house. In March, several of us got together in Virginia Beach to run the Shamrock Half Marathon, and we are planning a road trip to Auburn in the fall. We always tell stories of the stupid things we did when we were living in the house, and we retell the same stories over and over again, each time thanking the world of technology that there were not cell phones when we went to PSU! It always amazes me that we remember the words when we sing all the great songs that we learned when we were active brothers at AGP.

To our active brotherhood: cherish every moment at AGP. You will develop lifelong friends and brothers. You will remember our purpose; let it guide you to be your best self. When any of you travel back to PSU for a football game, stop by the corner of Park/Porter. **Kevin Culver '82 (Γ1189)** and I are there almost every home game, and everyone is always welcome! “Boys Weekend” is October 1, and the gang will all be there!

**GRICE'S
 GROWTH
 AS A GAMMA**

**TODD GRICE '81
 (Γ1154) REMINISCES
 ON HIS TIME IN AGR**

GAMMA CRESCENT **ATP**

Gamma Chapter Alumni Association
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CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATING SENIORS



Eric Baumgardt (Γ1835)



Chad Giardinelli (Γ1837)



Ben Mulligan (Γ1840)



Brody Boehler (Γ1836)



Max Hadley (Γ1820)



Casey Quinlan (Γ1857)



Collin Cambell '20 (Γ1854)



Nick Harris (Γ1822)



Alec Santoro (Γ1830)



Quinn Coughlin (Γ1815)



Alex Karnikolas (Γ1838)



Jacob Schindler (Γ1855)



Mike Danohue (Γ1806)



Brendon Kearns (Γ1848)



Samuel Simkin (Γ1841)



Declan Evans (Γ1816)



Zach Labrecque (Γ1823)



Jake Smith (Γ1831)



Ryan Frasca (Γ1818)



Carson Lortz '19 (Γ1824)



Connor Spahr (Γ1842)



Chris Funari (Γ1819)



AJ Mastrangelo (Γ1839)

Nick Velasquez '18 (Γ1811)

Picture Unavailable



Camerin Gallagher (Γ1834)



Nick Moore (Γ1825)