

GAMMA CRESCENT

GAMMA CHAPTER OF ALPHA GAMMA RHO FRATERNITY AT PENN STATE | FALL 2008

ALUMNI SUPPORT DEMONSTRATES WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A GAMMA

Board and Undergraduates Work with National to Improve Chapter

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If you have been keeping any kind of tab on Gamma Chapter lately, you will know there has been a renewed focus as we move closer to our 100th anniversary. Several goals have been established and we are working toward achieving them. We have a strong commitment to recruitment and to making a stronger undergraduate chapter. Several different groups are coming together to help reach our goals.

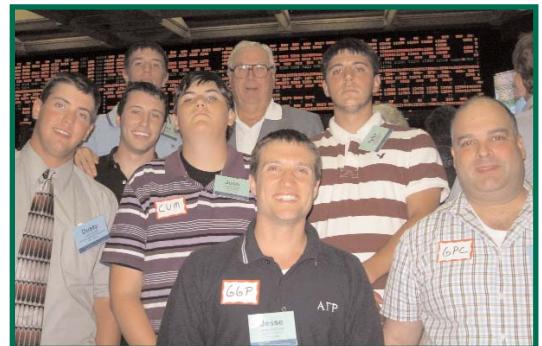
Dean of Agriculture Dr. Marcos Fernandez, his staff, and the university have been very receptive with our plans. We have again hosted the AGR LEAP program for incoming freshmen at our chapter house. We are also working closely with Marcos by offering scholarships that allow us to bring in new prospects to visit the chapter.

The AGR National Fraternity allowed us to utilize services they provide on strategic planning and recruitment. Additionally, we hosted National for a meeting on how to create scholarships by utilizing donations to the AGR Educational Foundation with money earmarked for Gamma Chapter.

The undergraduate chapter has shown a lot of leadership and commitment to the cause. They are striving to improve, participating in selling skills training, trying new methods to recruit, and can picture their goal of building a larger, stronger brotherhood.

Finally, several alumni are becoming reengaged in AGR and volunteering for our cause. We are

dedicating our time to help the undergraduates move in the right direction. We have done this by attending recruitment events and demonstrating that our commitment for AGR is here to stay, to both the undergraduates and the university.



AGR undergraduates and alumni attended the August National Convention where they visited the Commodities Exchange in Chicago. Alumni pictured: Jesse Hallowell '97 (Γ1392), David Custoza '81 (Γ1158), and Penny Hallowell '48 (Γ571). Undergraduates from left: Dustin LeVan '06 (Γ1520), Jonathan Tabolt '06 (Γ1522), Adam Houseman (Γ1531), Josh Kipple '04 (Γ1506), and Tyler Prutzman (Γ1533).



AGR alumni gathered in Great Hall during Founder's Day 2008.

It is truly amazing to see how many of us are out there from different generations and at different points in our lives. Yet we still have one common interest, not to just have a home on 322 Fraternity Row, but what it means to be a Gamma. I encourage you to help or visit the house to show your support in our endeavors.

Fraternally,
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GAMMA MEN PERFECT RECRUITMENT TECHNIQUES WITH AGR LEAP PROGRAM

Alumni Board Helps Create Scholarships for Undergraduates

Our numbers are growing, and we've been working hard at keeping our house in top shape. There has been a steady list of improvements to our facility throughout the last year. We recently installed a new front door to the Great Hall, with the help of our alumni. Our brothers who stay here in the summer stained it a dark cherry color, and it looks beautiful alongside our pillars.

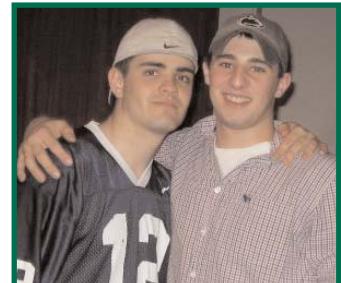


AGR undergraduates tour Chicago while in town for the National Convention. From left: Dustin LeVan '06 (Γ1520), Jonathan Tabolt '06 (Γ1522), Josh Kipple '04 (Γ1506), Tyler Prutzman (Γ1533), Colin Walker (Γ1501), Benjamin Baker '06 (Γ1518), and Adam Houseman (Γ1531).

We hosted our third annual AGR LEAP dinner with the Biomedical Sciences and Pre-Veterinarian Club. Among our guests was Dr. Marcos Fernandez, the dean of agriculture, and several members of the Ag Hill staff. It was a great success, and it was nice to see all the alumni who showed up to see the event.

The freshmen who came to the event were very impressed, and we have had three young men come to the house consistently since then. This September, **Josh**

Wackler, Oregon State University '01 (AB1069), AGR's chief recruitment officer, came to work with our chapter and taught us recruitment techniques. This fall we are focused on recruiting a large group of outstanding agricultural young men, and Josh gave us the tips and tricks to help us achieve our goal. We realize that to continue to be the premier agricultural fraternity at Penn State, we need to get the college men who are strong agricultural leaders.



Big brother Nick Ennis '04 (Γ1503), left, and little brother Chris Conover '06 (Γ1517) after a Penn State victory.

We've also been working diligently with the alumni board, and we have set up scholarships for our brothers who excel academically. Last semester we had five brothers on the Dean's List!

I want to welcome all alumni who would like to come back to the house for a visit. Feel free to stop by and see us, I look forward to seeing you!

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INTRODUCING THE GAMMA CHAPTER ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD

PRESIDENT

Jon J. Schroer '90 (T1289)

Jon was motivated to help AGR when he stopped by the chapter house for a visit. "Seeing the house was enough for me to want to make it as good as it ever was. Even with the wear and tear over the years, one can see the majesty that it could provide for future brothers. I want them to have the opportunity for experiences similar to mine; that's what made me want to contribute to the organization." Jon is area manager for Nalco Energy Services and lives in Delaware, Pennsylvania. He owns a 95-acre farm in western Pennsylvania, where he hopes to eventually move and farm part time.

VICE PRESIDENT

Thomas Olliver '91 (T1313)

For Tom, Gamma Chapter is not just a fraternity house but a place to call home. This is why he continues to volunteer on the board of directors. "If every brother that goes through the house gets half as much fulfillment as I did, then it's all worth it." Tom is an EpicCare ambulatory development analyst at Geisinger Medical Center in Danville, Pennsylvania, and lives in Union County, Pennsylvania, with his family.

SECRETARY

James C. Valent '90 (T1292)

James has been employed by Monsanto Company for more than eight years and works as a local field advisor in northeastern Ohio and central Pennsylvania. He lives in State College, Pennsylvania, with his wife, Lori, and their three children: Alyssa, Andrew, and Alexander. James is very excited to be a part of the Alumni Association Board and looks forward to making improvements for the chapter.

BOARD MEMBER/ADVISOR

Carl Anderson '78 (T1111)

Carl knew it was time to get back to his AGR roots when his son joined the fraternity. "It was clear to me that this was a very exciting time to be back at Gamma Chapter. It has been very rewarding to see the changes that have occurred the past two years. The alumni have become much more engaged and the undergraduates are showing great promise." Carl has worked at Hanover Foods Corporation for 19 years and is plant manager of the Centre Hall, Pennsylvania, facility. He and his wife, Donna, have two children, **Carl IV '05 (T1508)** and Laura.

ADVISOR

Dr. Bryan Dillehay,

University of Maryland '98 (AOI700)

Bryan became involved with Gamma Chapter when he arrived on campus for graduate school and became chapter advisor a year later. "I had such a great experience as an undergraduate at the University of Maryland, where I was initiated into the Alpha Theta Chapter, I wanted to give something back to such a great organization." Bryan works for Monsanto, the world's largest biotech company, as a research and development representative. He and his wife, Heidi, live in State College, Pennsylvania.

BOARD MEMBERS

Brian Sarris '69 (T960)

Upon graduation, Brian took a job with a food service management firm and stayed with the company his entire career. He is now retired and loves every minute of it. Brian and his wife, Stephanie, have been married for 31 years and have two children,

Jordan and Julie. Brian became a board member two years ago and has found it to be one of the most rewarding things he has ever done. "If you come back you will find a cohesive brotherhood and a cohesive board. We have done a lot in the last few years, but there is still a lot to do. Please consider getting involved. We need you and would love to have you back."

David Custozzo '81 (T1158)

David works at the United States Department of Agriculture where he is a consumer safety officer frontline supervisor. His attention turned to AGR once again when his son became an active member. "The principles of Alpha Gamma Rho, Gamma Chapter, are very important, and we can all make a difference in agriculture and in the lives of these young men. We have a responsibility to do so." David and his wife, Amy Dee, live in Ellwood City, Pennsylvania. They have two children, **Eric '05, (T1512)** and Adam.

Tim Kelly '02 (T1482)

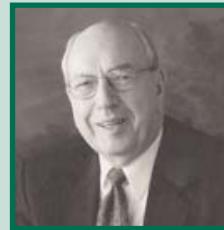
Tim works at Power Windows and Siding Inc. as an account executive in Emmaus, Pennsylvania. He says his experience in Gamma Chapter gave him the leadership qualities necessary for his career. He decided to join the alumni board to give back to the undergraduates and to help ensure the preservation of the property. His fond memories of being an active member at Alpha Gamma Rho are among some of Tim's favorites. He looks forward to reconnecting with brothers and enhancing the chapter for future young men.

GAMMA ALUMNUS DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN AGRICULTURE AREA

Spotlight on Boyd Wolf '52 (T629)

In 1953, **Boyd Wolff '52 (T629)** graduated from Pennsylvania State University with a degree in dairy science. He acted as Gamma Chapter's treasurer as an undergraduate, which helped hone his financial skills. Boyd learned to balance budgets and keep track of cash flow, both in and out of the bank. Perhaps one of the greatest skills acquired while living at the fraternity house was the ability to interact with others. His proficiency in people skills has helped enable him to work well with others, making for a better and broader agriculture.

Upon graduation, Boyd returned to work on the family farm in Westmoreland County for 33 years, expanding his farm to over 400 acres while increasing the herd three-fold. Starting in 1987, he served as the Pennsylvania secretary of agriculture for eight years.



During his appointment, Boyd created several new programs, such as the Farm Land Preservation Program, Diagnostic Laboratory System, and the Animal Health Commission. Since then, Boyd has volunteered as a consultant for the United States Agency for International Development, completing 14 projects in eight different countries, and in April 2003 Governor Rendell named him chairman of the Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board. A well-deserved retirement occurred from this position in April 2008. Imagine how Brother Wolff must feel after accomplishing so much for the good of agriculture, much of which was voluntary. When asked what retirement brings for him, his response was to catch up on things and continue to enjoy life. Sounds like a Gamma man to me!

(Continued on page 4)

WEB SITES

Gamma Chapter
www.agr-gamma.com

National Fraternity
www.alphagammarho.org

Penn State
www.psu.edu

2008-2009 NITTANY LION HOME BASKETBALL

- Nov. 9 Bloomsburg (Exhibition)
- Nov. 17 NJIT
- Nov. 20 Harford
- Nov. 23 New Hampshire
- Dec. 6 Temple
- Dec. 10 Army
- Dec. 13 Mount St. Mary's
- Dec. 21 Lafayette
- Dec. 23 Sacred Heart
- Dec. 31 Northwestern
- Jan. 6 Purdue
- Jan. 14 Michigan State
- Jan. 20 Michigan
- Jan. 24 Iowa
- Feb. 8 Wisconsin
- Feb. 14 Minnesota
- Feb. 28 Indiana
- March 3 Illinois

Spotlight on Boyd Wolff '52

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According to Boyd, great transitions are occurring in agriculture for Pennsylvania. The state productivity is stable and, while the number of farms is decreasing, the farms remaining active are generally increasing in size. The climate in our state is ideal for crop production, which will keep Pennsylvania producing food, fuel, and fiber. Farmers are feeling the pinch of serious financial situations due to high fuel prices. Many are resorting to no-till farming and are more wisely utilizing fertilizer due to its price increase. Boyd's commitment to agriculture is evident just by hearing his thoughts concerning the future of agriculture. Perhaps you never retire from something for which you have a passion.

I'm proud to know Boyd Wolff and refer to him as my brother. This spotlight probably only scratches the surface of his accomplishments. If you find yourself traveling through Harrisburg, look him up for a visit. I know I will.

Fraternally,
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ATTENTION:

*This newsletter is intended for alumni, undergraduates, and parents.
 If your Alpha Gamma Rho 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.*

ALUMNI REUNION WEEKEND HELD SEPTEMBER 13 AND 14

Brother **Richard Stoneback '53** held a reunion the weekend of September 13 and 14. Though it was a small gathering of brothers and wives, fun was had by all. Everyone caught up on old times and relived old memories. Plans are in the works for the next reunion, the weekend of July 25, 2009, so mark your calendars.



AGR brothers and families who attended the reunion.