

GAMMA CRESCENT

GAMMA CHAPTER OF ALPHA GAMMA RHO FRATERNITY AT PENN STATE | FALL 2014

GAMMA PAYS ATTENTION TO DETAILS

For the past few years at our undergraduate retreat in August, we have a lot of discussion on a theme for the year. Two years ago our theme was "Making Big Strides" and I can confidently say our undergraduates did. Last year it was "Getting to the Next Level" where the undergraduates spent a lot of time fine tuning the practices at Gamma. This year we decided on "Attention to Detail." Each vice noble ruler has specific areas where they want to improve.

SCHOLARSHIP

In the spring of 2014, Gamma Chapter had 25 brothers who achieved a 3.5 or higher GPA, three brothers who had a 4.0 GPA, and an overall chapter GPA of 3.18. These are phenomenal results; I am so proud of their accomplishments.

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

The undergraduates want to develop a solid program that can be tweaked each semester rather than be re-written. The AFP Connect technology program provided by our home office will be significant in making this a reality. **Greg Surine '12 (Γ1603)**, our VNR member development, will be implementing a semi-annual brotherhood review program to take membership development to a new level where it incorporates all brothers in the house.

RECRUITMENT

Fifty brothers living in the house this fall is a huge jump from the 13 in 2006. This year our emphasis is to increase our agriculture majors. **Jesse Hallowell '97 (Γ1392)** has worked hard this past summer with the national fraternity and the undergraduates to get agriculture students to apply for two Alpha Gamma Rho \$1,000 scholarships. We received 12 applications and invited them all to dinner at the house. Each applicant was contacted by a Gamma alumnus.

BYLAWS

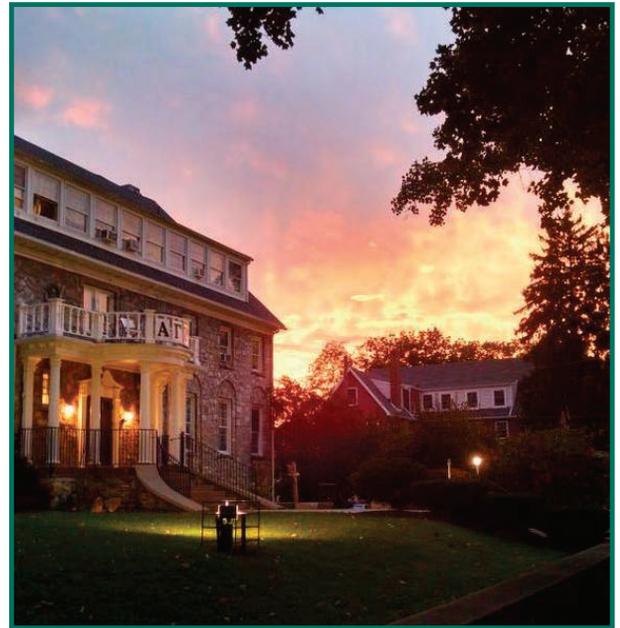
VNR Planning **Andrew Saba '12 (Γ1621)** will be working with **Corey Simmons '04 (Γ1504)**, our alumni board secretary, to review and revise the chapter bylaws.

RITUALS

Corey Simmons will be spending time with **Brad Nixon '12 (Γ1597)**, noble ruler, to ensure Gamma is following all AFP rituals for initiation. They plan to purchase new robes.

FOOD SERVICE

Over the summer the undergraduate executive team decided to hire Happy Valley Home Cooking,



a company which provides food service, including a cook, for fraternities. Happy Valley promises to increase quality, satisfaction, and reduce cost substantially. Brothers are coming to dinner as a brotherhood, five to six tables per evening, and they are thrilled with the new program.

NEW FURNITURE

The alumni board had to purchase additional beds and wardrobes to accommodate an increase of 15 brothers living in the house. The cost of the new furniture was \$19,434 and we are now focused on finding a way to fund new furniture for the great hall. Please help us purchase the new furniture by sending in the enclosed pledge card or visit <http://agr.kintera.org/annual> to donate.

I hope you can see there are a lot of positives happening at Gamma. As I have said repeatedly over the past few years, support from alumni is needed and always appreciated. If you haven't been back in a while, please do so. Mark your calendar for March 21, 2015 to join us for our Founder's Day. We would love to see you.



Fraternally,
Brian "Greek" Sarris '69 (Γ1589)
Gamma Alumni Association President
(215) 872-4517
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SAVE THE
DATE

Founder's Day

March 21, 2015

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annual](http://agr.kintera.org/annual)

ΑΓΡ UNDERGRADUATES STRENGTHEN BONDS AND FORTIFY FUTURES



Greetings from the Noble Ruler

A busy school year means exciting times for Gamma Chapter. This year 50 members are living in the chapter house- a big increase from previous years. Although it took a while for some of the newer members to adjust to the lifestyle in the house, everybody now knows the expectations that are required of them and morale has never been better. With a semester behind us, the previously inexperienced executive board has now become familiar with the roles and responsibilities we carry and are now comfortable with making decisions and strategically planning for the future. With 20 new recruits this semester and constant improvements to the chapter house, the future of Gamma looks bright.

Fraternally,
Bradley Nixon '12 (Γ1598)
 Noble Ruler
 (860) 878-2419
 bjn5094@gmail.com



CALLING ALL ALUMNI!

On Sunday, October 4, we had our annual fall Gamma homecoming. We had a great turnout and we were able to discuss business that was relevant to both undergraduates and alumni. Afterward, we all shared a BBQ lunch catered for us by Happy Valley Home Cooking. I would like to thank all the alumni that attended, namely:

Boyd Wolf '50 (Γ666)
Richard Dempster '51 (Γ668)
Brian "Greek" Sarris '69 (Γ960)
Wayne Martenas '72 (Γ1022)
Alan Daum '82 (Γ1173)

Jon Schroer '90 (Γ1289)
Tom Olliver '91 (Γ1313)
Jesse Hallowell '97 (Γ1392)
Matt Keil '00 (Γ1446)
Ben Baker '06 (Γ1518)

As VNR Alumni Relations, one of my jobs is to increase undergraduate and alumni interaction. On that note I would like to invite all alumni to our house for dinner. Let us know ahead of time and we will have a plate ready for you. Also, be on the lookout for Facebook post or e-mails about alumni/undergraduate tailgates. I hope that this *Crescent* finds all of you well and we look forward to seeing you soon.

Fraternally,
David K. Eapen '13 (Γ1645)
 VNR Alumni Relations
 davideapen1993@gmail.com



The fall 2014 new Gamma members. Back row: Thomas Mahan, Collin Jamieson, Eli Kessler, Huey Tsang, Martin Carrasco, John Tierney, Jr., Michael Marino III, Grant Pyle, Lewis Williams, and Michael Hellman. Front row: Zachary Wilder, Ryan Moser, Matthew Schultz, David Ballinger, Zachary Mahler, Vincent Favaloro, Brandon Miller, Aaron Sosanader, Benjamin Apuzzo, and Brian Morales.

Executive Officers Report on Gamma Chapter Achievements

SCHOLARLY STRIDES



Jak Lysowski '09 (Γ1559), Tyler McDonough '11 (Γ1577), and Ryan Lynch '10 (Γ1565), winners for the 2013 Jim Modlizewski Scholarship and Integrity Memorial Award, share their proud moment.

Gamma brothers have learned that hard work truly does pay off. After countless hours spent preparing for tests, working on projects, and writing papers, we are proud to announce the current academic standings of the Gamma Chapter. The total chapter GPA is a 3.18, with four well-deserving brothers achieving a 4.0. Twenty-five Gammas made the Dean's List and four Gammas are in the Schreyer's Honors College. We thank the alumni and home office for the \$12,000 of scholarship money awarded to Gamma undergraduates this fall. We are extremely proud of each other for holding our academic responsibilities in such high regard.

WELCOME, NEW BROTHERS

Alpha Gamma Rho is welcoming 20 new brothers this fall, many of whom are engineering and business majors. Most are from Pennsylvania, but we have new boys from as far as Memphis, Tennessee; Riverside, California; and even across the pond in Wales.

This semester, new members will be using AFP Connect to experience some of the membership development process individually. We have also been focusing on developing brothers who are past their first semester in the house. Brothers have been helping each other with classwork, resumes, interview skills, and even social skills. We look forward to great semesters of membership development to come at Gamma Chapter.

Fraternally,
Gregory Surine '12 (Γ1603)
VNR Membership Development
gsurine@gmail.com

AFP Accounts

The Gamma Chapter continues to be in good financial standing. Currently, we have 50 brothers living in the fraternity at a cost of \$4,805 in which \$4,650 covers their housing and their meal plan. The rest is for national and local chapter dues. In comparison to the dorms, this is cheaper as it costs roughly \$4,885 to live in the dorms with a medium-level meal plan. However, we also have 13 brothers currently living out of house at a cost of \$1,100, which covers an out-of-house fee, a partial meal plan, and national and local dues.

Fraternally,
Brandon Camarre '12 (Γ1597)
VNR Finance
bcamarre@gmail.com

GAMMA HOUSE GROWTH

Since the summer we have been working toward keeping the house clean and operational. My daily job consists of solving the minor issues in the house. In addition, this semester we got an entirely new kitchen service and chef. I oversaw the implementation of this new kitchen management and equipment. With this service we installed a new dishwasher, steam table, and coffee machine. Furthermore we have also upgraded our outdoor spotlights in the front of the house to LEDs, a more efficient light.



Fraternally,
Michael Grzywacz '12 (Γ1617)
VNR Maintenance and Operations
michaelgrzywacz72@gmail.com



AGP UNDERGRADUATES STRENGTHEN BONDS AND FORTIFY FUTURES

Executive Officers Report on Gamma Chapter Achievements

The Brotherhood Broadens

Alpha Gamma Rho recruitment was in full swing this semester! This fall we went above and beyond to have as much fun and get to know as many potential members as possible. The entire brotherhood was able to get involved and have numerous opportunities to show what AGP is all about. With events such as paintball, volleyball, and watching Penn State beat Rutgers, we were able to accommodate a plethora of rushees. In the end, this process was able to bring in 20 new members at Gamma Chapter!

Fraternally,
Kevin Brennan '12 (Γ1613)
 VNR Recruitment
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GAMMA BROTHER GENEROSITY

Last spring, Gamma Chapter was heavily involved in philanthropy, as well as community service. In April, the chapter raised over \$300 at our annual pasta dinner for the Nick Smiles Foundation. We also sponsored a successful blood drive for the Red Cross. Most importantly, the chapter, along with sorority Omega Phi Alpha, raised the highest total ever for THON: \$81,336.90! Brothers **Ryan Belcher '11 (Γ1591)**, **Ryan Stephenson '10 (Γ1569)**, and **Brandon Camarre '12 (Γ1598)** did a fantastic job as THON chairs. Huge thanks to everyone who donated; please do so again next year so we can get an even higher total!

Unfortunately, this fall semester we will be saying goodbye to four of our finest members. We'd like to thank these brothers for their service to this chapter and wish them luck on all future endeavors.

Congratulations, graduating brothers!

Carson Conover '11 (Γ1576)
 Kiniesiology

Michael Grzywacz '12 (Γ1617)
 Environmental Resource Management

Dan Lynd '13 (Γ1625)
 Criminology

Tyler McDonough '11 (Γ1577)
 B.S. in Agricultural Engineering, minor in Engineering Entrepreneurship

Fraternally,
Andrew Saba '12 (Γ1621)
 VNR Planning
 agsaba24@gmail.com

FRATERNAL FESTIVITIES



Ryan Lynch '10 (Γ1565) and Sean Gunning '12 (Γ1595) enjoy the Pink Rose Formal with their dates.

In the spring of 2014, Alpha Gamma Rho held our annual Pink Rose Formal. Great Hall was decorated with a pink and white balloon archway for couples to take pictures, as well as floating LED balloons in the ceiling that illuminated the dance floor. The gentlemen of Alpha Gamma Rho were accompanied by their beautiful dates with an attendance of over 60 couples. The dates received a rose as they entered Great Hall. We look forward to this special evening every year.

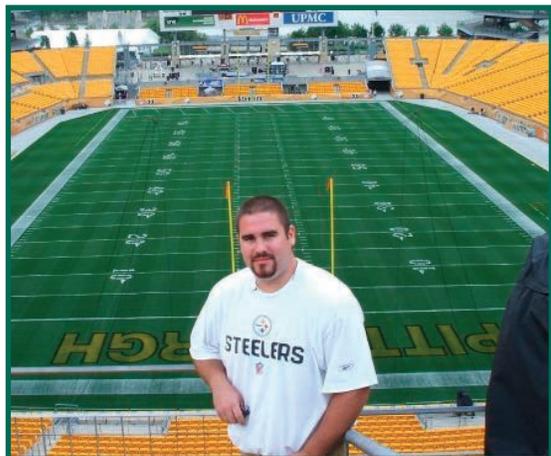
The fall is a busy time for intramurals in the Gamma house. We are slotted to compete in volleyball, basketball, golf, bocce, and softball. Currently, the softball team, led by **Jimmy Schlup '12 (Γ1619)**, went undefeated and made it to the championship. We played the defending champions Zeta Psi. The team played a tough game but lost in the finals by only three points, with a culminating record of 7-1. The intramural sports teams look forward to competing in the other events later in the year to showcase the prowess of Alpha Gamma Rho athletics.

Fraternally,
Sean Gunning '12 (Γ1595)
 VNR Activities
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JP Baugher '13 (G1633), center, accepts the Green Chapter Award from Zane Akins.

ERIC CUSTOZZO SHARES HIS PATH TO HEINZ FIELD AND RECOUNTS HIS LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE



Alumnus Eric Custozzo '05 (Gamma 1512) at his wonderful workplace, Heinz Field.

While I attended PSU I studied turfgrass science in the College of Agriculture. I worked on campus helping to install artificial turf plots at the Valentine Research Center. I then did my internship at Heinz Field one summer. I continued to work all games during the fall semester, driving from State College to Pittsburgh frequently. Now I work at Heinz Field on the gameday staff. This includes setting up the sidelines, fixing the field after the game, and lifting the field goal nets during the games. My full-time job is working at a Christmas tree nursery along with my responsibilities at Heinz Field.

My advice to freshmen is to get involved in leadership aspects of an organization. Involving yourself in leadership roles early will start your development of being a better leader because you can see many different situations throughout the time served. I was proudly elected to the executive board my first semester in the house. I really enjoyed listening and giving my input to the more experienced and mature men of the house. In doing so, I undoubtedly became a better leader later in my college career and outside of college in the everyday workplace.

Fraternally,
Eric Custozzo '05 (Gamma 1512)
 Ecustozzo@gmail.com

Thank You, Loyal Annual Campaign Contributors

Thanks to the support of loyal alumni, \$1,075 was contributed with 10 gifts to our spring 2014 appeal. The successes and achievements of the Gamma Chapter are directly attributed to the support and involvement of its members. The active brothers are grateful for and proud of the support they receive from their alumni. We hope more alumni will join their brothers and contribute to our ongoing annual campaign.

1910 Founders Member

(\$5,000 and above)

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Rick G. Steinmeyer '69 (Gamma 968)

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Ronald Fetrow '81 (Gamma 1169)

Matthew W. Keil '00 (Gamma 1446)

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Brian Hege '79 (Gamma 1129)

Dennis Toomey '79 (Gamma 1136)

Lloyd Kuser '80 (Gamma 1141)

Walter Saxton '81 (Gamma 1160)

Alan Daum '82 (Gamma 1173)

Brian Miller '83 (Gamma 1198)

Michael K. Schiever '83 (Gamma 1195)

Scott A. Stewart '83 (Gamma 1191)

Timothy Carley '86 (Gamma 1240)

Dane A. Lauer '90 (Gamma 1288)

* Keith Sampsel '92 (Gamma 1324)

Keith Bowman '00 (Gamma 1440)

Alumni Member

(Up to \$99)

Wallace H. Dunlap '38 (Gamma 398)

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Russell M. Orner '49 (Gamma 584)

Warren Davis '50 (Gamma 614)

Boyd Wolff '50 (Gamma 626)

Roger Risser '52 (Gamma 650)

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Michael E. Matsko '59 (Gamma 772)

Joseph E. Williams '59 (Gamma 778)

Daniel Swavely '64 (Gamma 871)

Phillip M. Pitzer '65 (Gamma 884)

John D. Tallman '69 (Gamma 956)

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Craig Weaver '75 (Gamma 1064)

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Jeffrey J. Pizutti '00 (Gamma 1448)

* Donor to the spring 2014 appeal

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AGGRESSIVE EFFORT CAN STILL BE FOUND

Gamma Actives and Alumni Replace the Deck at the Chapter House, Adding an Updated Appearance and Ensuring Safety



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Alumni Association
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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.*

Convention Furthers Member Education

The AFP National Convention was held on August 1-4 in Indianapolis. Attending from Gamma this year were undergraduates **Pete Clark '13 (Γ1629)**, **Mark DiMonte '13 (Γ1630)**, **Mike Cameron '13 (Γ1631)**, **John "JP" Baugher '13 (Γ1633)**, and two alumni board members, **Corey Simmon '95 (Γ1504)** and **Brian "Greek" Sarris '69 (Γ960)**.

As always, the convention was a great experience for all who attended and gave us the opportunity to rub elbows with other AΓPs across the country. We learned more about what is happening at AΓP, as well as what's happening in the agriculture industry. The programming for this year's convention was well received by all.



Brian "Greek" Sarris '69 (Γ960) tries to explain to the national board of directors exactly who stole the Prince of Wales's tails.

ALUMNI UPDATE



Robert Wilson '73 (Γ1028) caught a 12-pound bluefish at Island Beach State Park, N.J while fishing with Penrose Hollowell Jr. '76 (Γ1030).



Clay Swackhamer '12 (Γ1602), Scott Swackhamer '83 (Γ1202), and Gene Swackhamer, Delta '60 (Δ621) will proudly present at Founder's Day 2015 the AΓP quilt that Gene and his wife donated to the Gamma chapter.



Jonathan Medsger '99 (Γ1426) stopped by 322 Fraternity Row with his family.