

GAMMA CRESCENT

GAMMA CHAPTER OF ALPHA GAMMA RHO FRATERNITY AT PENN STATE | SPRING 2013

INSIDE

2

ALUMNI
SPOTLIGHT

3

THANK YOU,
LOYAL ALUMNI
AND FRIENDS

3

SUCCESSFUL YEAR
STRENGTHENS
GAMMA
BROTHERHOOD

4

SAVE THE DATE
FOR HOMECOMING

ALPHA GAMMA RHO MAKES BIG STRIDES AT PENN STATE

As I reflect on the past eight years since I became active again with Gamma, the strides we have made are significant, strides that we can be proud of. The leadership of the Gamma Alumni Association understood the situation we were in and took the necessary steps to bring Gamma back.

I am very proud of the accomplishments we made and the positive outlook for our future. We now have over 70 active members, with a good percentage of them in agriculture or agriculture-related majors. We know we need to continue improving, but we have definitely turned the corner. In the fall, we will have 43 brothers living in the house. We spent \$1.7 million on renovations and we are confident that Gamma Chapter at Penn State will be the house to envy for years to come. For the past four semesters, our G.P.A. has been over 3.0 and, as for philanthropy, we have raised over \$72,000 for THON the past two years and are involved in numerous other community service projects throughout the year.

Yes, there is a lot to be proud of with what your brothers have done. The one area where we still need to improve significantly is alumni involvement. Your financial support is always appreciated, but we need more than money. In this day and age, our undergraduates more than ever need mentorship, business acumen, job search assistance, summer internships, and so much more that you can provide. Please take a few moments to think about what AGP did for you and how you may be able to support the chapter. We are counting on you!



Fraternally,
Brian "Greek" Sarris '69 (Gamma 1960)
Gamma Alumni Association President
(215) 872-4517
briansarristraining@gmail.com

2013 FOUNDER'S DAY RECAP

Brothers, we just had our Founder's Day meeting on April 6, and below is a brief update on the day. As always, we would like to have more alumni in attendance, but we did have 18 at the meeting, which is respectable.

The day was highlighted by Gamma Chapter awarding honorary brotherhood to **Bryan Dillehay**, who is now Gamma 1638. For those who

do not know Bryan, he was an undergraduate at the University of Maryland where he joined the Alpha Theta Chapter of AGP. For the last 10+ years, Bryan has been our chapter adviser and has had a significant impact on the many undergraduate brothers during his tenure. He has given so much of his time, talent, and energy to Gamma and we are proud to be able to call him "Brother Dillehay."

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS FROM FOUNDER'S DAY:

- The meeting started with all Gamma executive committee members giving detailed reports for their area of responsibility. Noble Ruler **Ryan Lynch '10 (Gamma 1565)** remarked that he is proud to lead this group of men who are very committed to the goals that have been established for 2012-13. He shared that we now have over 70 undergraduate members and plan to have 43 men living in the chapter house this fall.
- Numerous scholarships were presented by **Jesse Hallowell '97 (Gamma 1392)**, who expressed his delight in handing out 15 checks for G.P.A. awards.
 - The Modliszewski Awards were given to **Sebastian Redcay '09 (Gamma 1554)** and **David Gallegos '09 (Gamma 1558)**
 - The Hallowell Award was given to **Jake Moore '11 (Gamma 1589)**
 - The Rockwell Award to **Sebastian Redcay '09 (Gamma 1554)**
 - The Newton Comly Award to **Sam Black '11 (Gamma 1592)**

(Continued on page 2)



Brian Sarris '69 (Gamma 1960) and Noble Ruler Ryan Lynch '10 (Gamma 1565) present Bryan Dillehay (Gamma 1638) with the Honorary Brother certificate.

2013 FOUNDER'S DAY RECAP

(Continued from page 1)

- **Finances** – Chairman and Treasurer (respectively) of the Finance Committee **Matt Keil '00 (Γ1446)** and **Jon Schroer '90 (Γ1289)** reported that Gamma is in a healthy financial situation. We refinanced our mortgage which saved us over \$15,000 per year.
- **House Capacity** – Jon Schroer led a committee to prepare the house for the increase in brothers living in it next semester. Going from 32 now to 43 takes a lot of planning. New furniture, redoing living space schematics, furnishing the rack with desks, setting up the kitchen and dining area with enough tables, chairs, and dishes, and much more needs to be organized for the fall.
- **Hedge/Fence** – Instead of an aluminum fence, a hedge with a split-rail fence will be placed around the perimeter of the house. This will be funded by annual giving campaign donations.
- **Annual Giving Campaign Projects** – This summer, we will be refurbishing the portico, refinishing the floors in Great Hall, and replacing the boiler. As more funds become available, we hope to get the fireplaces up and running as well as numerous other projects.
- Brother **John Tallman '69 (Γ956)** shared some very encouraging and positive thoughts about his brother-in-law, **Keith Masser '70 (Γ985)**, who has recently become the chairman of the Penn State University Board of Trustees.
- **Jordan Rolon '10 (Γ1570)** was elected to vice president of communication for IFC, and **Ryan Stephenson '10 (Γ1569)** is on the IFC judicial board.
- It was voted to keep the current alumni association officers for the 2013-14 year.
 - President – **Brian Sarris '69 (Γ960)**
 - Vice President – **Tom Olliver '91 (Γ1313)**
 - Treasurer – **Jon Schroer '90 (Γ1289)**
 - Secretary – **Corey Simmons '04 (Γ1504)**

We hope you can make it back for the Gamma Homecoming in the fall.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: TED FARRAND '69 (Γ946) ON HIS TIME WITH ALPHA GAMMA RHO

While **Ted Farrand '69 (Γ946)** was studying hotel and restaurant management at Penn State, he made several friends in that field who also happened to be in Alpha Gamma Rho. That, along with the fact that his father worked in the college of agriculture, set the stage for him to join the fraternity. “The synergy was there between me and the other members. And my dad, though not an AGP brother, gave me a good connection to the roots of AGP from being an assistant professor of forestry extension at the university.”



in the U.S., one in Toronto, and another in London.

Ted credits Gamma with strengthening his work ethic and focus during his collegiate years. “I believe AGP instilled character in all of us by being a close group with common goals. We had fun, but we also had to work hard.” He also gives accolades to **Bill Nichol '50 (Γ603)**, who was and still is “a sage advisor” to the brothers.

Ted was Gamma Chapter's caterer for two years, a position he enjoyed but that also came with some anxiety. “I remember one instance when I designed a menu for Mother's Day that wasn't what you would call ‘meat and potatoes.’ I had the mom's intentions in mind, so the meal was lighter than normal, which I thought the brothers would not appreciate, but they thought it was great.”

After graduation, Ted worked as a restaurant manager in Pittsburgh and Chicago. After 11 years, he became intrigued by the operational and financial audits of restaurants and other segments of the food service industry. He joined Cini•Little, a private firm specializing in foodservice consulting in areas of design and management. After working as a business consultant for many years, Ted was promoted to his current position. He is now president and COO of the company, managing seven offices

During the campaign, Ted was involved in fundraising efforts and is very pleased with the results at the chapter house. “I've been totally impressed with the outcome of the renovation. What a difference!” He also managed to get reacquainted with many of his pledge brothers through calls and meetings. For those who have lost touch, Ted urges you to reconnect. “By all means, get in touch with at least a couple brothers to reestablish connections. You will be pleasantly surprised at what great things can come of it.”

Ted and his wife, Sue, live in Germantown, Maryland. Sue works for the U.S. Department of Energy, and their daughter, Ashley, teaches at a private school. Ted and Sue love to cook and recently renovated and upgraded their kitchen. He sings in his church choir and also collects kitchen magnets. “I have at least one magnet from every state in the U.S.... except Hawaii. Work involves a good bit of travel, so my goal is to get out there next!” Contact Ted at tfarrand@cinilittle.com.

Alpha Gamma Rho and Delta Gamma celebrate a successful bone marrow drive.



THANK YOU, LOYAL ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

We are extremely grateful to the generous alumni and friends who contributed \$10,600 to our annual campaign. The support you give makes a difference to our chapter and its future. Our undergraduate brothers greatly appreciate your generosity. We hope more alumni will join their brothers and contribute to our ongoing annual campaign.

Pink Rose Member **(\$1,000 and above)**

* John Z. Shearer '49 (Γ586)

Common Bond Member **(\$500 to \$999)**

* J. Richard Crandall '50 (Γ610)
Lynn S. Bowes '58 (Γ758)
* Wayne B. Martenas '72 (Γ1022)
Ronald Fetrow '81 (Γ1169)
Eric Wagner '83 (Γ1194)

Friends of Gamma Member **(\$100 to \$499)**

Norman H. Barnes Jr. '39 (Γ424)
* Dean M. Gettemy '40 (Γ442)
* Daniel A. Swope '40 (Γ452)
* George D. Pringle '42 (Γ491)
* Donald F. Lederer '46 (Γ522)
* Joseph P. Freeh '47 (Γ548)

* Penrose Hollowell '48 (Γ571)
* Thomas W. Scott '50 (Γ612)
William Worthington '50 (Γ596)
* David Stabler '51 (Γ620)
* Irving Buck '54 (Γ683)
* Ramsey L. Frank '54 (Γ689)
David Webber '54 (Γ691)
* James R. Metzler '55 (Γ701)
* Robert D. Heilman '56 (Γ717)
Richard S. Carpenter '59 (Γ774)
* Kenneth W. Zieber '60 (Γ792)
* Wilbur Avril '61 (Γ819)
* Wallace Haulik '61 (Γ820)
Stephen Witmer '61 (Γ812)
* Russell J. Mitchell '62 (Γ825)
* John W. Sutton '63 (Γ841)
Robert L. Storch '64 (Γ874)
* Thomas Steinmeyer '65 (Γ890)
* James Schneck '68 (Γ927)
* George E. Myatich '69 (Γ965)

Brian T. Sarris '69 (Γ960)
* Frank E. Skacel Jr., VMD '69 (Γ947)
Rick G. Steinmeyer '69 (Γ968)
David A. Cramer '75 (Γ1069)
* Stephen Wharton '75 (Γ1063)
P. C. Hood '76 (Γ1091)
* Thomas K. Brosius '77 (Γ1106)
* Brian Hege '79 (Γ1129)
* Lloyd Kuser '80 (Γ1141)
* Walter Saxton '81 (Γ1160)
* Brian Miller '83 (Γ1198)
* Scott A. Stewart '83 (Γ1191)
Timothy Carley '86 (Γ1240)
Matthew W. Keil '00 (Γ1446)

Alumni Member **(Up to \$99)**

Wallace H. Dunlap '38 (Γ398)
Harold R. Wakefield '46 (Γ532)
Russell B. Darling '48 (Γ569)

* Warren Davis '50 (Γ614)
William Kincaid '51 (Γ622)
Roger Risser '52 (Γ650)
* John R. Akers '55 (Γ692)
* Simon K. Garber '55 (Γ697)
* David S. Bailey '58 (Γ748)
* Richard C. McDonald Jr. '58 (Γ746)
* Ronald J. Dinus '59 (Γ776)
Michael E. Matsko '59 (Γ772)
* Phillip M. Pitzer '65 (Γ884)
* Robert L. Firestone '66 (Γ911)
Timothy L. Strickler '66 (Γ894)
Daniel J. Pitman Jr. '75 (Γ1074)
Joseph Edwards '76 (Γ1085)
* John D. Merenick '86 (Γ1236)
* David Kann Jr. '87 (Γ1257)

* *Donor to the fall 2012 appeal*

SUCCESSFUL YEAR STRENGTHENS GAMMA BROTHERHOOD

Academics, Campus Involvement, and Recruitment Surge at Gamma Chapter

Since I was initiated as a brother in fall 2010, I've been astounded at the progress and overall aggressive effort Gamma Chapter has exerted. Whether it be expanding the breadth of our agricultural roots on campus, organizing philanthropic endeavors, or energizing a desire to represent the good name of this fraternity, it's clear to me that the estimated \$1.9 million renovation to our chapter house not only brought about a more beautiful facility but also a revitalized spirit of brotherhood.

STRESSING THE IMPORTANCE OF ACADEMICS

With each passing year, it seems that our pillar of scholarship becomes more and more instilled in the priorities of our chapter. Several of my brothers and I have earned admission into the Schreyer Honors College at Penn State, while even more brothers within the same majors frequently collaborate to improve their academic achievements. A few brothers, including **Stylianios Tsinaroglou '10 (Γ1564)** and **Brad Nixon '12 (Γ1597)**, reached the point of perfection with semester G.P.A.s of 4.0.

INVOLVEMENT AROUND CAMPUS

In an effort to further integrate Gamma Chapter

with the local agricultural community, **Clay Swackhamer '12 (Γ1602)** was recently elected to Penn State's Ag Student Council, with **Jakob Moore '11 (Γ1589)** and **Miles Basila '11 (Γ1583)** serving as Alpha Gamma Rho's representatives. What's more, **Jordan Rolon '10 (Γ1570)** was elected as Penn State Interfraternal Council's vice president of communications in December.

In athletics, **Kyle Cuba '09 (Γ1550)** and **Coleman Hoffman '12 (Γ1607)** were each crowned champion of their respective weight divisions for IM Wrestling. Meanwhile, **Franky Reluzco '11 (Γ1584)** led Penn State's club hockey team to the regional playoffs as the team's leader in goals and points. Listen for **Alex Gilliland '12 (Γ1601)** who can be heard commentating Penn State basketball games as one of the college's premier student broadcasters.

PHILANTHROPIC ENDEAVORS A SUCCESS

In the past year, not only has Gamma Chapter raised over \$72,000 for THON's 4 Diamond Fund, but we have also raised hundreds of dollars for the Nick Smiles on the Arts Foundation with our Fall Field Day and Pasta Dinner night. **Sam Black '11 (Γ1592)** and **Dillon Santopietro '11**

(Γ1594) orchestrated the fraternity's second annual Bone Marrow Drive and our involvement in the university's Penny Wars philanthropy, sponsored by Penn State's Greek Agricultural institutions, which benefits the AgrAbility program. Gamma Chapter was also the proud winners of Delta Gamma's Anchor Splash and ADPI's Diamond Football Bowl philanthropy sporting events.

MOVING FORWARD

I consider myself lucky to be a part of such a special fraternity, though I'm not surprised that we have done so well considering the quality of brothers that we recruited. When I first joined Gamma Chapter, there were 32 brothers; now, with the addition of the spring 2013 pledge class, we have 71. Last fall we recruited 18 brothers, and this spring we were able to recruit 11 more. I have never been more proud to be the Noble Ruler of Gamma Chapter. I implore all of you to visit the house and meet our current brotherhood. We hope to see you soon.

Fraternally,
Ryan Lynch '10 (Γ1565)
Noble Ruler
rd15102@psu.edu

SAVE THE DATE FOR GAMMA HOMECOMING

Be sure to mark your calendars for our annual Gamma Homecoming on October 5, 2013. More details will be provided at a later date. We hope to see you there!

GAMMA CHAPTER'S PROGRESS ON AG HILL

In the past two semesters, the men of Gamma Chapter have made some serious positive steps toward building goodwill and regaining our former status on Ag Hill. We strayed from our Ag roots in the past few years but have made it a top priority to re-establish ourselves in the Ag community. The first step taken was rejoining the College of Agriculture's student council. This task was accomplished through the penmanship of Brother **Clay Swackhamer '12 (Γ1602)**, who drafted our formal proposal to rejoin. It would not have been possible without the constant dedication of Brothers **Miles Basila '11 (Γ1583)** and **Jake Moore '11 (Γ1589)**, who dutifully attended meetings and helped us rebuild ties with the other agricultural fraternities Tau Phi Delta and Delta Theta Sigma.

There are countless benefits to rejoining the council. As long as we are represented as an official organization within the College of Agriculture, we have the ability to voice concerns about curriculum and administrative issues within the college, and we have the privilege to apply for funding for trips to ATP's national and leadership conventions. We will now be eligible to set up a display at Ag Live, an event held in Snyder Arena during a home football weekend, and will be able to participate in Ag Day in the spring. Perhaps even more important, we will be able to send a team to the Ag Olympics again, engaging in activities ranging from the exciting milk chug to the ever popular hay bale toss and pedal tractor races!

In addition to our success with the student organizations on Ag Hill, we were privileged to host the dean of the College of Agriculture, Dr. Barbara Christ, for dinner at the chapter house. The dean and her husband had a wonderful time and spent a lively hour conversing with brothers about the state of the college and about agriculture in general. Dean Christ recently traveled to the nation's capital to meet with the Department of Agriculture to lobby for the passing of a new farm bill. She sent an e-mail to us expressing her gratitude for the invitation and hospitality. This kind of goodwill can only help our fraternity in achieving our goals.

Fraternally,
Clay Swackhamer '12 (Γ1602)

ATP GAMMA CRESCENT

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

Address Service Requested

PSRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
LAWRENCE, KS
66044
PERMIT #570



Brothers of ATP celebrate their \$72,000 THON total with sorority pairing Omega Phi Alpha.

LOYAL ALUMNI HELP MAKE THON A HUGE SUCCESS

Over the course of this year, the brothers of Gamma Chapter spent much of their time raising money for the Penn State IFC/Panhellenic Dance Marathon, more commonly known as THON. The money raised goes to help families with children who are going through treatment for cancer, as well as research to find a cure. With our partner sorority Omega Phi Alpha, we are proud to say that we raised \$72,163! Roughly \$2,000 came from Gamma Chapter alumni, and for this we are very thankful. In addition to the money raised, **Jack Rowley '09 (Γ1559)** and **Kyle Cuba '09 (Γ1550)** represented ATP on the dance floor by spending 46 straight hours awake and on their feet. Our success with THON is a great representative of the tremendous strides that Gamma Chapter has made over the past few years.

Fraternally,
Jack Rowley '09 (Γ1559)