

GAMMA CRESCENT

GAMMA CHAPTER OF ALPHA GAMMA RHO FRATERNITY AT PENN STATE | FALL 2012

GAMMA BUILDS ON OUR SOLID FOUNDATION

In the fall of 2011, I introduced myself to you as the new president of the Gamma Chapter Alumni Association and shared my priorities to:

- Emphasize the solid traditions of our fraternity.
- Dedicate ourselves to professionalism.
- Return to our agriculture roots.
- Increase alumni involvement.

Over the past year, we have made some significant strides at Gamma, but the alumni and undergraduates are well aware that we still have a ways to go. We are confident, however, that our goals are achievable.

On August 19, five undergraduates, all members of the Gamma Executive Committee, and five alumni had a day-long retreat to review where we are as a chapter and established some specific goals for the 2012-13 school year. I would like to share those goals with you.

- **Chapter of Excellence** – The office of Fraternity and Sorority Life at Penn State on an annual basis evaluates all fraternities and sororities for chapter accreditation. The evaluation includes a review of the respective chapter's progress in meeting the expectations

outlined in the Greek Pride Initiative's minimum and reasonable standards. For the past few years, Gamma has achieved the second highest ranking of Chapter in Good Standing. Our goal this year is to receive the Chapter of Excellence ranking.

- **Membership Development** – In June of 1992, the Alpha Gamma Rho home office launched the new Brotherhood Program across the country. It was designed to substantially eliminate the possibility of hazing and focus on the four pillars of our fraternity. The four parameters of the Brotherhood Program are:
 - No more pledging.
 - If it's required of a freshman, it must be required of a senior.
 - No more dominant/subservient relationship.
 - Rewards must be based upon objective criteria and not encourage class division.

Although Gamma implemented some of the program, this year we took a good look at the Brotherhood Program at Gamma and concluded that changes are necessary to be fully compliant with the four parameters. Our undergraduates and alumni are fully committed to making the necessary changes to our program during this school year.

- **Acceptable Major Recruitment** – Getting back to our agriculture roots is extremely important to the alumni and the undergraduates at Gamma. Our Noble Ruler will be establishing a committee this fall of current ag majors to develop a specific action plan to enable Gamma to achieve this goal.
- **Move In/Out Policy** – Our advisor, **Bryan Dillehay '98 (AΘ1144)**, chaired a committee this spring and summer to develop and implement a policy to ensure rooms at Gamma are vacated in the condition they were received. The policy is being implemented this fall.
- **Chapter Meetings** – To ensure all brothers are aware of and attend all chapter meetings, a schedule will be developed and published at the beginning of each semester, so there will be no excuse for missing a meeting.
- **Kitchen Management** – Over the past few years, the attendance at dinner has been declining. The entire brotherhood will be encouraged to attend dinner and we will be soliciting reasons for brothers not attending.

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RISE IN G.P.A. AND RECRUITMENT MAKES FOR A BRIGHT SEMESTER AT GAMMA



Alpha Gamma Rho and Omega Phi Alpha at THON 2012.

Gamma Chapter has been very busy these last few months. We finished the spring semester strong by raising \$74,714 for the Four Diamonds Fund through THON.

ACADEMICS ON THE RISE

A report of last semester's grades hasn't come out yet, but after talking with many of the brothers it looks like the average G.P.A. will be at a new high. This will rank us very well compared to other Penn State fraternities.

UNDERGRADUATES ON CAMPUS

As for membership, Gamma had a great semester of recruiting, and we now have 12 new brothers which is the largest recruitment for the spring that anyone can remember. This new group of members shows a lot of promise. **Jeff Sim '12 (Γ1609)** is a member of the Penn State club soccer team and **Greg Surine '12 (Γ1606)** is a member of the

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GAMMA BUILDS ON OUR SOLID FOUNDATION

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Our goal is to promote and increase attendance at the dinner meal.

- **Clean House** – Although we have made significant strides in this area, all agreed that cleanliness can be improved and that it is everyone's job. Our Vice Noble Ruler Maintenance and Operations will be redoing the duty list for the upcoming year, increasing the frequency of duties and implementing a fine for those who have not completed their assigned duty.
- **Risk Management** – This is always an area we need to revisit and can improve upon. We will have a risk management presentation for all brothers at least once per semester.
- **ATP Lease** – The chapter and residential leases have both been revised and will be signed by the end of September.
- **Professional Development Networking Day** – Our Vice Noble Ruler Alumni Relations will be working on a program to bring alumni back to the house for a day to



*National Convention in Burlington, Vt.
From left Jesse Hallowell '97 (Γ1392), Jack Rowley '09 (Γ1559), Clay Swackhammer '12 (Γ1605), Jak Lysowski '09 (Γ1559), and Brian "Greek" Sarris '69 (Γ960).*

help the undergraduates with professional development and networking.

- **Philanthropy** – We have made significant strides over the past few years in philanthropy. A plan will be developed by the Vice Noble Ruler Planning to ensure we have continuous improvement in this area.
- **Chapter Awards and Interfraternity Council (IFC) Relations** –

- There are numerous awards presented to ATP chapters across the country annually by the ATP home office. We will take the time this year to apply for many of these awards.
- Although our relationship with IFC is okay, we all believe it can improve. The Gamma executive committee will proactively work at improving this relationship in the upcoming year.

There you have it. The specific goals we have established for the 2012-13 school year. We have an excellent Gamma executive committee and a quality group of undergraduate brothers who, like each alumnus, want to make Gamma at Penn State the premier fraternity on campus and for ATP across the country.



Fraternally,
Brian "Greek" Sarris '69 (Γ960)
Gamma Alumni Association
President
(215) 872-4517
briansarristraining@gmail.com

BRIGHT SEMESTER

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club baseball team. **Kyle Cuba '09 (Γ1550)** is involved with the Penn State club wrestling team, and **Styli Tsinaroglou '10 (Γ1564)** is the newly appointed Red Bull representative for Penn State. Also, Alpha Gamma Rho (paired with Delta Gamma and Zeta Psi) placed first in the annual Greek Week competition during the spring semester. As a whole, Gamma Chapter is showing great promise. This year in intramural sports we expect to win the fraternity league in soccer and wrestling, as well as place highly in volleyball and football.

FUTURE EVENTS FOR ATP

As Gamma moves into the new semester, we plan to hold two philanthropies, top our THON fundraising yet again, attain an even better chapter G.P.A., and, as always, strengthen our everlasting bond of brotherhood. Everyone in Gamma Chapter enjoyed seeing the parents and alumni come around for Founder's Day and parents' weekend last semester. This fall we look forward to seeing alumni again for Gamma Homecoming on October 20, and I hope that if you are in town for football games you will stop by. We always look forward to seeing old friends again and meeting new people, so whether you haven't been back for a week or 20 years, please stop by. We'd love to see you.

Fraternally,
Sebastian Redcay '09 (Γ1552)
Noble Ruler
(717) 422-7121 / slr5277@gmail.com

ALUMNI UPDATE

CHAPTER ETERNAL

Furman Gyger '33 entered Chapter Eternal on August 15, 2012, at the age of 97. He was a third generation dairy farmer on his family's "Spruce Haven Farm" in Kimberton, Pa. Furman enjoyed Penn State and was a Penn State University Board of Trustees member for two terms. He was also an avid traveler. Furman is survived by two daughters, seven grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

John T. Smith '38 (Γ413) entered Chapter Eternal July 8, 2012, at Country Meadows of Leader Heights. He was preceded by his wife, Paige (Seely) Smith. After graduating from Penn State he served in the U.S. Navy from 1944 to 1946. John dedicated his life to agriculture and education, not only through his work but also by establishing many scholarships designed to support students, as well as faculty of Penn State. As such he was the recipient of many awards and recognitions, including the dedication of Atrium at Penn State York and the York Fair Animal Learning Center.

Clarence W. Huling Jr. '40 (Γ443) entered Chapter Eternal June 1, 2012, at Brittany Pointe Estates in Lansdale. Clarence is survived by his wife of almost 69 years, Ruth, his children, Sally and Stephen, four grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren. On April 12, his daughter, Ruthann, passed away.

Lee H. Breidigam '47 (Γ545) entered Chapter Eternal July 7, 2012. He is survived by wife, Emma, to whom he was married for 61 years. Also surviving are his children, Brenda and Bryan.

Richard H. Dum '49 (Γ585) entered Chapter Eternal on January 2, 2012. He and his late wife, Nancy, had two daughters, Kim and Cindy.

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THANK YOU, BROTHERS, FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT

We are extremely grateful to the following 34 brothers who contributed \$4,600 to our annual campaign we started in the spring. 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.

Common Bond Member (\$500 and above)

Lynn S. Bowes '58 (Γ758)
Ronald Fetrow '81 (Γ1169)
Eric Wagner '83 (Γ1194)

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

Norman H. Barnes Jr. '39 (Γ424)
Joseph P. Freeh '47 (Γ548)
William Worthington '50 (Γ596)
David Webber '54 (Γ691)
James R. Metzler '55 (Γ701)
Robert D. Heilman '56 (Γ717)
Richard S. Carpenter '59 (Γ774)
Stephen Witmer '61 (Γ812)
Robert L. Storch '64 (Γ874)
Brian T. Sarris '69 (Γ960)
Rick G. Steinmeyer '69 (Γ968)
David A. Cramer '75 (Γ1069)
P. C. Hood '76 (Γ1091)
Lloyd Kuser '80 (Γ1141)
Brian Miller '83 (Γ1198)
Sean Williams '84 (Γ1208)
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)
William Kincaid '51 (Γ622)
Roger Risser '52 (Γ650)
Ramsey L. Frank '54 (Γ689)
Michael E. Matsko '59 (Γ772)
Kenneth W. Zieber '60 (Γ792)
Timothy L. Strickler '66 (Γ894)
George E. Myatich '69 (Γ965)
Daniel J. Pitman Jr. '75 (Γ1074)
Joseph Edwards '76 (Γ1085)
David Kann Jr. '87 (Γ1257)

ALPHA GAMMA RHO PROVIDES REX RICHARDS '69 (Γ949) WITH STRONG BONDS AND STRONG CONVICTIONS

Rex Richards '69 (Γ949) joined Alpha Gamma Rho as a sophomore. His freshman-year roommate, Ed Steckler '69 (Γ942), had an older brother, Lewis '66 (Γ912), who was an ATP member. "He invited me to visit the house and see how the chapter operated, which impressed me. Through getting to know the brothers, I decided it would be a good fit for me and made the commitment to join."



Rex spent two years as chapter secretary, a position that instilled in him a sense of responsibility. "Living in that kind of atmosphere helps mold you into someone who is able to get along with so many different personalities. You have to learn to adjust and adapt to all situations. I think my time in Gamma Chapter made me more mature for my age than if I hadn't joined, because I was doing things that most people in my age group weren't doing."

After graduating from Penn State with a degree in agriculture business, and a three-year tour in the Navy, Rex took a job with Purina. "My big brother in ATP was in Navy ROTC, and I followed in his footsteps. It was a very good decision for me, and I learned a lot." The first job Rex took after leaving the Navy seemed like a natural fit. It was through Purina that he connected with the company he came to work for today. Rex is vice president of operations at Phillips Feed and Pet Supply, an independent distributor of pet food and supplies.

"You need to look long and hard at any job opportunities you have, because what you decide to do as a career is a big decision." Rex advises recent graduates to take time and really think about the positions they are applying for before accepting. "Don't jump at an opportunity just

because it makes a lot of money. That shouldn't be the driving factor in your decision-making process when choosing a career. You need to feel comfortable with the company and your responsibilities. There's always the risk of getting in over your head at first, so a good rule of thumb is to do more listening than talking, at least for the first few years."

While his memories from Gamma Chapter are countless, Rex recounts attending football games with his brothers as his favorite. "Back then, we went to games wearing our Sunday best. The guys would put on our suits and ties, and the women wore their Sunday dresses. They were very enjoyable times." Living in a house with so many men came with its own bond-strengthening ability as well. "The fellowship of the brothers living together (I think there were 48 or so) was outstanding. We got along so well and were such a close-knit group. We spent a lot of time together and had a lot of fun. I've always felt proud to be an ATP. It's a great organization that I will continue to support."

Rex has stayed in touch with a few of his pledge brothers over the years. During the recent capital campaign, Rex was able to call and talk to brothers he hasn't seen or spoken to since graduation. "Because of our time spent together in the house, we have such a strong bond that you can pick up the phone and talk like no time has passed."

Rex and his late wife, Dorothy, were married for 40 years. He has two children, Jason and Lindsay, and six grandchildren. In his spare time, Rex does his best to maintain a healthy lifestyle: running, bicycling, and working out. He is also involved with his church. You can contact Rex at rex.richards@phillipsfeed.com.



April 12-14, 2013
Undergraduate and
alumni teams invited.
More information at
www.agrbbq.com.

JOIN US FOR GAMMA HOMECOMING

Saturday, October 20, 2012

11 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Lunch at the Chapter House

1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Alumni Meeting

Stay to watch the Penn State vs. Iowa game at the house. This is a THON Canning weekend, so many of the undergraduates will be away for the weekend Canning for THON. We hope to see you there!

ALUMNI UPDATE

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Stan Vinores '69 (T963) entered Chapter Eternal November 1, 2011, he was employed at the National Institute of Health in Bethesda.

ALUMNI NEWS

Harold Wakefield '46 (T532) is enjoying retirement. He spends his time gardening and taking part in church activities. He and his wife, Joan, live in Goshen, Ind., and have three children: Lloyd, Bruce, and Paul. E-mail: hrjwake@aol.com

Joseph P. Freeh '47 (T548) is alive and well at 88. "It's been 64 years since I left Gamma in my 1936 Plymouth and went back home to Pleasant Valley, Pa. Memories of 1948 come back loud and clear as I write this."

James M. Hutchinson '54 (T704) is fully retired and spends his time hunting, fishing, and taking an active role in Hunter's Creek Community Church. He and his wife, Diana, live in Lapeer, Mich., and have six children: Jim, Tim, Rick, Chris, Bill, and Karl. E-mail: hutchill@charter.net

John R. Akers '55 (T692) worked 40 years for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and retired in June 2000. He lives in Everett, Pa., with his wife, Ann. He teaches an adult Sunday school class at the Everett United Methodist Church, and serves as an associate member of the Bedford County conservation district. He has six children, seven grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

ALPHA GAMMA CRESCENT

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

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2012 FOUNDER'S DAY RECAP

We had a good turnout for Founder's Day on March 24, 2012, with more than 20 alumni back for the meeting. Although we always want more brothers to attend and get involved, those that did attend were able to see the significant positive strides being made by our undergraduates. Some of the highlights are:

- Academics improved with a 3.06 cumulative G.P.A. last semester.
- Gamma's total fundraising for THON was \$74,714. The total seems to be increasing every year and we appreciate all the alumni who support our effort.
- Twelve new brothers were initiated in the spring semester, following a class of 11 in the fall. Our recruitment continues to be strong and we have over 50 undergraduate brothers.
- Financially, Gamma is strong and the long-term financial outlook is very positive. Over 75% of the fundraising pledges have been received and we are confident that we will receive almost all the money pledged to our building program. Thank you to all the alumni who have given and are meeting their obligation.
- Our alumni bylaws were revised in the spring and were approved at Founder's Day. Most of the changes were updates and clarifications.

- We did approve the Annual Giving Campaign and to date have received \$4,600 from our alumni. Our objective is to fund special projects where dollars are needed. A couple of projects identified were the renovation of the portico, purchase of fireplaces which were sealed during the renovation, and a fence/hedge to be put around the perimeter of the property.
- We elect new board officers each Founder's Day and it was voted on and approved to re-elect the current board officers.

Founder's Day is one of the two main meetings we have annually at Gamma. It gives us an opportunity to update all the alumni and undergraduates on what is happening at Penn State and at the house. We have taken some huge steps over the past few years and we are growing and getting stronger. As shared before, alumni support for our undergraduate brothers is so important. We have a core group of alumni who continue to support Gamma, but we could benefit if more were to get involved. Please take a couple of minutes and think about what Gamma did for you and how you can support our purpose, "to make better men, and through them a broader and better agriculture."