

AGS GAMMA CHAPTER FOUNDATION 2024-25 ANNUAL REPORT



The Alpha Gamma Sigma Gamma Chapter Foundation is pleased to announce the publication of its inaugural Annual Report. This report offers a comprehensive look at who we are, how we’re funded, and how alumni funds help support our undergraduate members. The report highlights our scholarship program, which recognizes both scholastic achievement and campus leadership. It also reviews the *Aspire* Leadership Program that not only empowers members with practical skills for their time as students but also prepares them for success in life and careers beyond college. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact one of the board members.

INTRODUCTION

By Eli Thomssen '56, Γ77

SUPPORTING THE FUTURE OF ALPHA GAMMA SIGMA

The **Alpha Gamma Sigma Gamma Chapter Foundation** is committed to investing in the future of Gamma Chapter through leadership development and scholarship support. Thanks to the generous contributions of our alumni, we have proudly funded the **Aspire Leadership Program** and awarded both **academic** and **leadership scholarships**, including to members who serve as officers in campus organizations.

CONNECTING ALUMNI

The Foundation also helps organize the annual **Big Red Tailgate**—a signature event that brings alumni together to reconnect, share memories, and celebrate the values that bind us. These moments of connection remind us that brotherhood doesn’t end at graduation.

YOUR IMPACT IN ACTION

This **Annual Report** outlines the accomplishments, financial stewardship, and tangible impact your support has had on Gamma Chapter. AGS continues to thrive at the **University of Nebraska-Lincoln**, and your engagement plays a vital role in that success. Together with the undergraduate chapter, we are building a legacy rooted in our **13 Guiding Principles**, ensuring the continued growth and excellence of Gamma Chapter. We sincerely thank you for your steadfast support, your belief in the transformative power of Alpha Gamma Sigma, and your recognition of how it continues to benefit alumni long after graduation.

GIVE TO GAMMA DAY: 2025 CAMPAIGN LAUNCH

In 2024, the Foundation Board introduced **Give to Gamma Day** to focus fundraising efforts within a dedicated period. The **2025 campaign** launched on **September 22** and will conclude on **November 7**—the date Gamma Chapter was colonized at UNL.

You can donate online anytime at agsunl.org

FOUNDATION GOVERNANCE

The **Gamma Chapter Foundation Board of Directors** sets the Foundation’s strategic direction, ensures responsible financial oversight, and manages all contributions in the best interests of both current members and alumni. The board consists of **nine members**, each serving a **three-year term**. If you’re interested in serving on the board, please reach out to any of the members listed on the next page—we’d be glad to hear from you.



Vision Statement

To guide our efforts and ensure alignment with our mission, the following vision and values provide the foundation for all initiatives and activities.

Vision: To garner generational resources that foster a culture of Leadership, Education, Brotherhood, Service, and Inclusion. Cultivating opportunities for young men to aspire for lifelong greatness on campus and within their families, communities, and chosen career. All the while, always nurturing and honoring the AGS Core Principles.

Stated Values:

1. Trust
2. Transparency
3. Servant Leadership
4. Unity
5. Stewardship
6. Accountability

Thirteen Core Principles

1. Scholarship
2. Health
3. Sociability
4. Leadership
5. Sportsmanship
6. Obedience
7. Perpetuation of Morality
8. Fellowship
9. Cooperation
10. Honesty
11. Temperance
12. Self-reliance
13. Sacrifice

Alpha Gamma Sigma Gamma Chapter Foundation Board



Eli Thomssen '56, F77
President
elthomssen@gmail.com



Gage Hoegermeyer '15, F1004
Secretary
gagehoegy@gmail.com



Cary Sandell '88, F541
Treasurer
sandellcary@gmail.com



Shane Belohrad '87, F515
shane_belohrad@ajg.com



Larry Lutz '55, F70
30modela@roadrunner.com



Bruce Williams '91, F590
williamsbruce2350@gmail.com



Mike Miller '86, F502
mike.miller@ardentmills.com



Trevor Spath '15, F1013
trev.spath@gmail.com



Matt Jedlicka '91, F605
matt.a.jedlicka@gmail.com

WAYS TO DONATE

By *Eli Thomssen '56, F77* and *Cary Sandell '88, F541*

Giving to the Gamma Chapter Foundation

One of the goals of the **Gamma Chapter Foundation** is to provide donors with **flexibility** in how they support current and future members of Alpha Gamma Sigma. To that end, the Foundation maintains two primary giving platforms:

1. **Discretionary Investment Fund** – managed by Pittenger & Anderson Inc., Lincoln
2. **Endowment Fund** – held at the Omaha Community Foundation

Each option serves a distinct purpose, giving donors the ability to choose how their contributions will be used and how they will make a lasting impact.

GAMMA CHAPTER FOUNDATION DISCRETIONARY INVESTMENT FUND

The **Discretionary Investment Fund** provides the Foundation with **flexible, immediate access** to funds for ongoing expenses and annual programming. It is managed by **Pittenger & Anderson Inc.**, who also serve as the Foundation's financial advisor. All donations contributed are first deposited in the Foundation's checking account at the **Nebraska Bank of Commerce** and then transferred to the discretionary investment fund as part of a targeted investment strategy.



HOW TO DONATE:

Cash Donation Options

- Credit card
- Debit card
- ACH transfer

You can contribute at agsunl.org or scan the QR code.



Check Donation

Mail to: **Cary Sandell '88, Treasurer**, 8501 W. Trevisa Ct., Malcolm, NE 68402-9571

A matching gift can have a significant impact on your donation. If your company offers a matching gift program, please follow your company's matching gift process.

Non-Cash Donation Options

An excellent way to donate is by making a non-cash donation using:

- Grain or livestock
- Appreciated securities
- RMD (Required Minimum Distribution) from IRA retirement account
- Real or personal property
- Life insurance policies

To donate non-cash assets, please contact **Cary Sandell '88** at sandellcary@gmail.com or (402) 525-6641.

AGS GAMMA CHAPTER ENDOWMENT FUND (OMAHA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION)

The **AGS Endowment Fund**, held at the **Omaha Community Foundation**, is intended for donors who want their gifts to support **Gamma Chapter in perpetuity**. While contributions are owned by the Omaha Community Foundation, the Gamma Chapter Foundation controls the fund's investment strategy and the distribution of earnings. The principal remains intact, with a portion of earnings distributed annually to support scholarships and leadership development.



HOW TO DONATE:

Visit omahafoundation.org/AGS or scan the QR code.

Cash Donation Options

- Credit card
- Debit card
- ACH transfer



Check Donation

Mailing instructions are provided on the Omaha Community Foundation website.

The non-cash ways to give listed for the Schwab Brokerage Account are available for the Endowment Fund (subject to gift acceptance committee review). For the procedure, contact: **Wynter Davis, Donor Services Advisor, Omaha Community Foundation** at wynter@omahafoundation.org or (402) 933-4289.

PLANNED GIVING AND LEGACY GIFTS

The **Endowment Fund** is a meaningful way for alumni to leave a legacy. Including the Gamma Chapter Foundation in your **estate plan** ensures future generations benefit from your commitment to AGS values. To include AGS in your will or trust, please consult with your attorney or estate planning advisor to ensure the proper language and compliance with your wishes and applicable laws.

For more information, contact:

- **Eli Thomssen '56, President**
elthomssen@gmail.com | (269) 491-6431
- **Cary Sandell '88, Treasurer**
sandellcary@gmail.com | (402) 525-6641

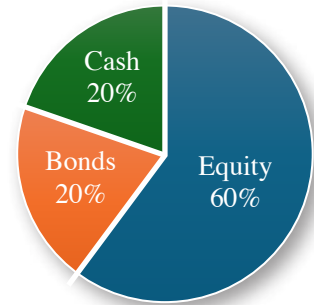
INVESTMENT STRATEGY

The Schwab Brokerage and Endowment Fund portfolios are structured per Figure 1.

The portfolio reflects a balanced approach that prioritizes long-term growth, income generation, and liquidity. The allocations support our commitment to financial stewardship and positions the Foundation Board to fund scholarships and the *Aspire* Leadership Program with confidence.

Figure 1

■ Equity
■ Bonds
■ Cash



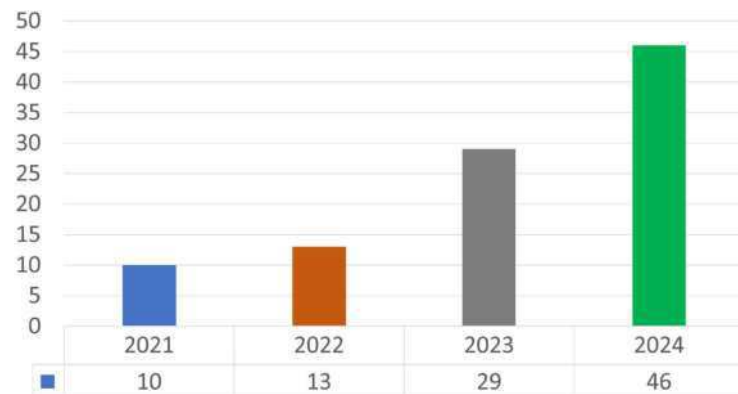
YEAR IN REVIEW: GIVE TO GAMMA DAY CAMPAIGN

By Gage Hoegermeyer '15, Γ1004 and Trevor Spath '15, Γ1013

In 2024, the Gamma Chapter Foundation proudly launched the inaugural Give to Gamma Day campaign, commencing on September 30 and concluding with a celebration on our Founders Day, November 7. This new giving initiative rallied alumni and supporters around a unified cause: a focused fundraising effort to strengthen the future of Gamma Chapter through financial support of educational and leadership opportunities for AGS men.

A total of 44 donors participated, raising \$46,128 to support the Gamma Foundation's purpose. The total number of donors for year 2024 was 46, so the Give to Gamma Day campaign had a significant impact on the number of alumni donating to the Gamma Foundation (Figure 1). The event culminated in a live webinar where we shared updates, expressed gratitude, and reinforced the strength of our brotherhood.

Figure 1—Number of Donors Each Year

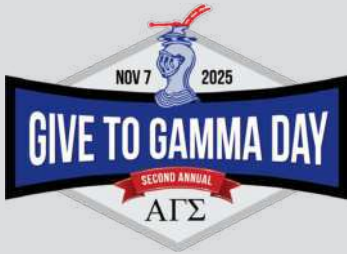


Give to Gamma Day will remain our core fundraising activity so alumni and friends of AGS have a clear direction on how they can support the mission of the Gamma Foundation. We have created a window of giving following Big Red Tailgate through November 7, allowing us to focus the rest of the year on pressure-free time together as brothers.

Thanks to your continued support, the Foundation is able to fund scholarships, the *Aspire* Leadership Experience, and create financial stability to support AGS men. Your involvement, whether through financial gifts, mentorship, or simply staying connected, makes a lasting difference. Together, we are actively shaping the future of AGS Gamma through member development.

As we look ahead, we are energized by the momentum you have helped create. Starting September 21, 2025, the second annual Give to Gamma Day officially began. With this becoming an annual event, we have placed an emphasis on recurring online donations. Keep an eye on your email and mailbox for an exciting award that will be gifted to one lucky recurring donor!

On behalf of the Gamma Foundation Board, thank you for your support, your generosity, and your belief in what we do.



Gage Hoegermeyer

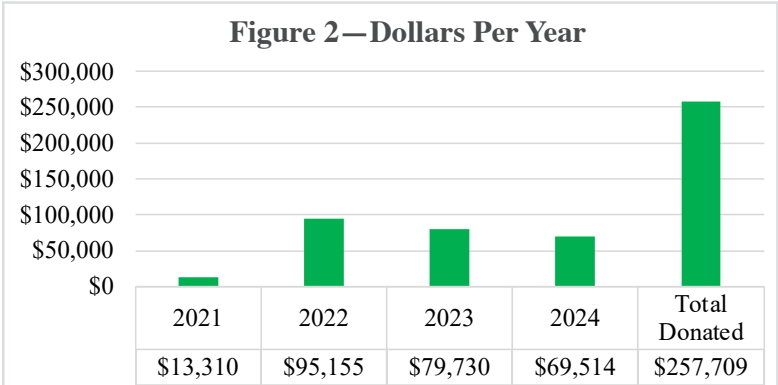
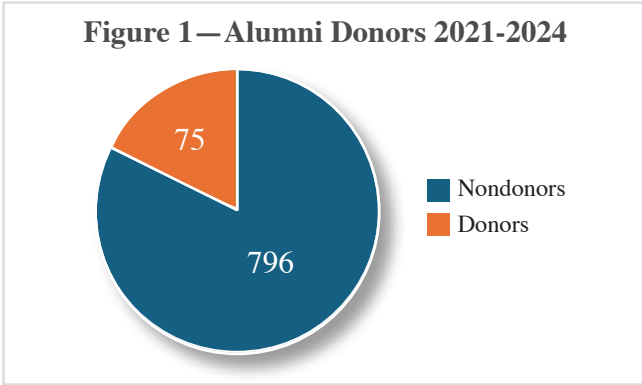


Trevor Spath

DONOR RECOGNITION

By Dale Ekart '69, Γ227

The AGS alumni who have donated to the Gamma Chapter Foundation have helped to fund scholarships and the Aspire Leadership Program. Of our 871 alumni, 72 have made donations since 2021 (Figure 1). The amounts donated each year from 2021-24 are summarized in Figure 2. Our goal is to increase the number of alumni participating in the funding campaigns and to increase the amounts given. Please consider joining those who have donated to the AGS Foundation’s campaigns since 2021.



Donor	Pledge Year	Pin Number	Donor	Pledge Year	Pin Number	Donor	Pledge Year	Pin Number
Al Bell	1953	1	Kevin C. Yost	1984	464	Jed Christensen	1995	671
Dale Van Vleck	1953	22	Dr. Dean R. Folkers	1984	468	Brian Wieman	1995	674
Dick Paul	1955	61	Timothy Gregerson	1984	469	Todd Franzen	1996	683
Larry M. Lutz	1955	70	John H. Bergmeyer	1985	485	Craig George	1996	686
Thomas Schwab	1956	76	Jerry Lentfer	1985	493	Shaun Custard	1997	704
Eli Thomssen	1956	77	Michael Miller	1986	502	Brad Heinrichs	2001	785
Darrel Thomssen	1985	104	Keith Molzer	1986	511	Grant M. Wallace, M.D.	2005	852
Donald C. Meiergerd	1959	119	Shane A. Belohrad	1987	515	Adam Brown	2007	892
John Miller	1963	144	Michael Zalman	1987	524	Taylor Collins	2011	949
Dwight G. Kanter, Ph.D.	1964	153	Mark D. Brase	1987	528	Gabe Collins	2012	959
Wayne E. Hake	1965	168	Cory Bergt	1988	535	Garret Gregerson	2013	978
Terry Bussear	1969	210	Cary L. Sandell	1988	541	Trey Mogensen	2013	982
Dale Ekart	1969	227	Corey Huck	1988	547	J. Joe Herrick	2014	992
Richard L. Katt	1971	255	Bill Smith	1987	552	Gage Hoegermeyer	2015	1004
Daryl L. Wilton	1972	274	Brian Nedrow	1989	556	Trevor Spath	2015	1013
Jim Ronhovde	1973	278	Christopher Haun*	1990	578	Cooper Hicks	2015	1015
Lyle Kinley Jr.	1975	313	Mark Frank	1990	581	Austin Robinson	2015	1020
Lynn Neujahr	1974	315	Michael Underwood	1990	588	Nolan Casey	2016	1044
Steve Dietz	1977	352	Joshua Skavdahl	1990	589	Jake Judge	2017	1050
John Kinley	1978	360	Bruce Williams	1991	590	Nathan Hatterman	2017	1053
Paul Lear	1979	373	Jason Voss	1991	600	Brent Lemmer	2017	1058
Thomas E. Hermance	1979	384	Matthew Jedlicka	1991	605	Brandon Jelinek	2018	1070
Dwight Dam	1980	401	Mark D. Johnson	1992	622	Dean Stokebrand		
Todd Shane	1981	423	Kevin Wemhoff	1992	624	Larry and Marlene Domina		
Michael Barrett	1983	449	Joseph Skavdahl	1994	644			
Rick Gestring	1983	450	Chad D. Villwok	1995	666			

*deceased

SIGMA SIX EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM – *The Goal*

By Rick Gestring '83, F450, Aspire Program Co-Coordinator



Designed to provide next-level leadership development to active members elected to chapter executive board positions, the SIGMA SIX Leadership Program is a unique learning experience created exclusively for Gamma Chapter. It is

funded in the form of a \$1,500 leadership grant per executive board member (\$18,000 total) from the Gamma Chapter Foundation, which sponsors the program content and materials.

The learning journey of the *Aspire* SIGMA SIX Leadership Program focuses on the following six leadership competencies and includes a variety of learning experiences and activities designed to teach, coach, and empower utilization of these leadership skills as members lead in their role as an executive board member and throughout their life and career.

- **Self-Development**
- **Accountability**
- **Communicates Effectively**
- **Manages Conflict**
- **Values Differences**
- **Build Networks**

The SIGMA SIX journey consisted of two development sessions:

Accountability Development Session: *Saturday, January 25, 2025*

- Facilitated by the industry-leading consulting group Culture Partners Inc. (culturepartners.com)
- Content focused on how to “Create a Culture of Accountability”
- Provided tools and techniques to hold oneself and others accountable
- See It, Own It, Solve It, Do It
- Above and Below the Line Behavior

Active and Alumni Executive Retreat: *Saturday, February 1, 2025*

- Chapter executive board members presented key learning from Culture of Accountability session
- Discussed chapter goals and how accountability will be executed to achieve
- Alumni Board Mentors and Active Executive Member Development (Ongoing post-retreat)
- “Be Bold” leadership shared learning and commitments



Active and Alumni Executive Retreat

SIGMA SIX EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM – *The Result*

By Gavin Dozler '22, F1166, Chapter President



When our new executive team began its term, we faced two primary challenges:

- Creating accountability among both the executive board and the entire active chapter.
- Identifying practical, attainable strategies to improve fraternity for future generations.

While we often talked about the importance of everyone working toward the same goals, we struggled to clearly define those goals and how to achieve them. Culture Partners

(culturepartners.com) was hired to provide the guidance we needed to clarify our vision and create a plan for meaningful progress.

During the training, Culture Partners helped us develop three key areas of focus:

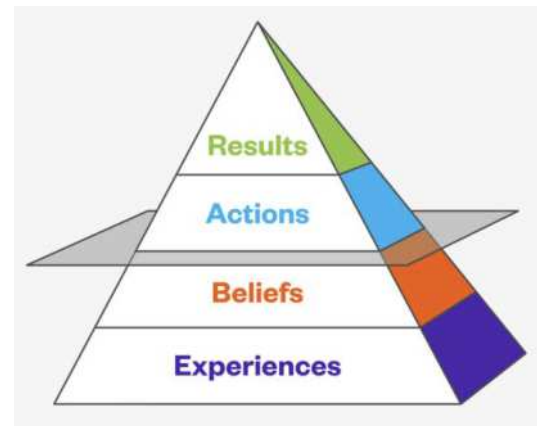
- Academic excellence
- Unparalleled leadership
- Making a difference

We learned how these principles could serve as a foundation for guiding our chapter into the future. One of the most impactful lessons we learned was the “Experiences Pyramid,” which outlines four stages: Experiences, Beliefs, Actions, and Results. This framework emphasized that meaningful cultural change starts with experiences. By shaping positive experiences we influence beliefs, which then drive actions and ultimately produce the results we want, both in individual members and the fraternity as a whole.

What did we do with the training?

Collectively, we implemented these lessons in several ways. We strengthened accountability measures for behavior and member event attendance.

Additionally, we reshaped parts of the new member process to foster a stronger and more positive culture and reinforced the importance of academics throughout the chapter. These efforts have already shown measurable results, including achieving our highest cumulative GPA ever of 3.46. The current executive board believes that the training from Culture Partners and support from the Alumni Board has significantly helped our chapter improve but also recognizes that there is still much room for growth in the future. Moving forward, we believe these cultural shifts will position our fraternity to not only sustain these successes but also to continue growing as an organization that develops men of character and impact. We are sincerely grateful for the financial support provided by the Gamma Foundation.



FINANCIAL REPORT

By Cary Sandell '88, F541

Through the generous support of alumni, we were able to award 25 scholarships totaling \$4,400 in fall 2024 and 32 scholarships totaling \$16,200 for spring 2025. Promoting scholarship ensures that our Gamma Chapter members are recognized for the academic achievements and campus leadership roles that contributes to how AGS men are respected on campus. Likewise, the Foundation supports the *Aspire* Leadership Program, and this training is expected to pay dividends by having leaders in the house, on campus, and in the future as alumni. The scholarships offered along with the *Aspire* Leadership Program are important programs to encourage new members to join AGS.

The expected annual expenses of the Gamma Chapter Foundation are in Table I.

Table I—Annual Projected Expenses	
Scholarships	\$30,000
Pennington / Communications	\$18,000
Aspire Funding	\$17,500
New Member Retreat/Conclave	\$12,000
Accounting (HBE CPA and Consultants)	\$1,500
Total	\$79,000

The current funds available to the Foundation are in three accounts that are summarized in Table II.

Table II—Foundation Funds	
Schwab Brokerage Account	\$446,816
AGS Gamma Chapter Endowment Fund	\$5,144
Nebraska Bank of Commerce	\$5,803
Total	\$457,763

The Gamma Chapter Foundation has a goal to continue growing the Brokerage Account and Endowment Fund to a level where the scholarships paid and the *Aspire* Leadership Program are self-sustaining. Gamma Chapter will celebrate its 75th anniversary in 2028, and a funding campaign is planned to grow the Foundation’s assets to \$2 million. This level will sustain the annual Foundation budget using the annual earnings while preserving the principal balance. As you reflect on what AGS did in your own development, please remember to “pay it forward” by supporting the Gamma Chapter Foundation.



NEW MEMBER RETREAT

By Richard Katt '71, F255

The AGS New Member Brotherhood retreat was created to assist the new brothers to acclimate to both college and the Fraternity. The retreat is built on research that supports the fact that the new class of men must first get to know each other and function as a class become becoming a part of the fraternity. The 2025 overnight retreat was held August 21 and 22 at Carol Joy Holling Conference Center near Ashland, Nebraska.



Rick Gestring and I conduct the retreat along with alumni, chapter advisors and active members. Time is spent helping the new men get to know each other, and goes it beyond memorizing names. The focus is on getting to know each other’s interests and hobbies, preferred music, food, and religious preference. This part of the program is focused on helping the new members to begin building the bonds of brotherhood.

The balance of the retreat introduces the Sigma Six Leadership Development Journey components of Self-Development, Accountability, Communicating Effectively, Managing Conflict, Valuing Differences, and Building Networks.

One of the highlights is participating in the high ropes course at Carol Joy Holling Conference Center. It is a team focused course that challenges the men to work together and encourage each other to complete the course.

The active members help the new men understand the differences between high school and college courses. Discussions are held to help the new men maximize their college experience. The Gamma Chapter Foundation funds the retreat, and the sponsorship is greatly appreciated.



Teamwork, Trust, and a Touch of Chaos

NEW MEMBER RETREAT



Learning Teamwork: Reviewing Materials and Sharing Ideas



Getting to Know Your New Brothers

BIG RED TAILGATE

The Alumni Board of Trustees and the Gamma Chapter Board collaborate to schedule the annual Big Red Tailgate event. The reunion is an excellent opportunity to rekindle old friendships and mentor relationships between alumni and undergraduates.



AGS GAMMA CHAPTER FOUNDATION 2024-25 ANNUAL REPORT



Gamma Chapter of Alpha Gamma Sigma
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
P.O. Box 442100
Lawrence, KS 66044-2100

Address Service Requested



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Learn more inside!