

GAMMA UPDATE

Gamma Chapter of Alpha Gamma Sigma •

Fall 2020





The Sower statue atop the Nebraska State Capitol building.

Sowing Our Seeds of Hope

Be a Part of Alpha Gamma Sigma's Exciting Future

wo years ago, we set out on a path to build a new chapter house for the men of our beloved Alpha Gamma Sigma Fraternity. The seeds of progress were sown early on in hopes that our building fund effort would culminate in the form of a newly imagined chapter house. One that created a unique lifestyle experience in the form of a next generation chapter house design.

Much like "The Sower" statue that sits atop the Nebraska State Capitol building, we tossed these seeds of hope to the wind in hopes that they would grow in the form of donations from our alumni into the dream chapter house we imagined. The Sower serves as a tribute to the importance of agriculture to noble life and civilization. Likewise, a reimagined Alpha Gamma Sigma chapter house serves as a living monument to our commitment to shared principles, academic excellence, and the development of future leaders within our communities and our country.

Over the past year we have cultivated and refined our fundraising efforts and are now at the fall season of harvest. In short, it is time to get the grain out of field and in the bin. Said differently, in the form of a Husker analogy, it's time to finish this drive and put the ball in the end zone.

As alumni of Alpha Gamma Sigma Fraternity, we share a special bond of brotherhood. Your leadership and guidance during your years of service as an active and alumni member are greatly appreciated. When each of us were initiated into Alpha Gamma Sigma Fraternity we pledged to perpetuate the 13 principles of our brotherhood. Now is the time to once again exercise the important principle of "sacrifice." We realize that each of you have a multitude of existing financial commitments to family, friends, and religious or community organizations, and that an additional financial obligation may be a significant sacrifice for you. However, it is a shared commitment that we must all honor in the form of a building fund donation. The viability of our fraternity depends upon each of us doing our part to continue the legacy of the Gamma Chapter of Alpha Gamma Sigma.

As we strive to achieve our goal of \$2.5 million (we are less than \$377,000 away), we ask that you donate or increase your pledge today. We once again ask you to help lead Alpha Gamma Sigma Fraternity forward to ensure a unique and exceptional brotherhood experience for the next generation of fraternity men.

Fraternally,

Gerard J. Keating '82, F437

Campaign Chairman gerard@keatingresources.com | (402) 925-5113

John H. Bergmeyer '85, Γ485

Assistant Chairman jbergmeyer@ohdbslaw.com | (402) 430-4223

Logan Schweitzer '08, F913

Alumni Association President loganschweitzer@gmail.com | (402) 937-5207

THANK YOU FOR GENEROUSLY GIVING TO ALPHA GAMMA SIGMA

Help Us Reach Our Goal and Add Your Name to This List Today!

We sincerely thank the more than 200 brothers and friends who have committed \$2,123,757 to Building the Future of Gamma Chapter: The Campaign for Alpha Gamma Sigma. These alumni recognize the importance of ensuring the future of our Alpha Gamma Sigma chapter and have demonstrated a sense of gratitude for their personal experience. Broad participation is required to reach our campaign goal. We hope you will join the campaign with a gift or pledge today.

All donors contributing a minimum of \$1,000 to the campaign, over a five-year period, will be recognized on a plaque prominently displayed in the chapter house. If an error has been made in recording your gift, or your name has been mistakenly omitted or listed improperly, we sincerely apologize. Please contact our campaign coordinator at (785) 843-1661 so we may make a correction.

\$100,000 and above

Mike Jacobson '72, Γ Gerard J. Keating '82, Γ Keith Molzer '86, Γ Shane Belohrad '87, Γ

\$75,000 to \$99,999

Active Gamma Chapter
Dale Van Vleck '53, Γ22
In honor of
Sen. Merton "Cap" Dierks '53, Γ2
Gestring Family
Rick Gestring '83, Γ450
Bob E. Gestring '85, Γ497

\$50,000 to \$74,999

Virginia and Thomas Schwab '57, Γ76 Kevin Yost '84, Γ464 John Bergmeyer '85, Γ485 Scott Bunz '89, Γ565 The Curtis J. Domina '93, Γ638 Memorial Gift Matt Jedlicka '91, Γ605 Chad Hill '92, Γ613 Jason Katt '92, Γ615 Rick Gish '92, Γ619 Kevin L. Wemhoff '92, Γ624 Ryan Rikli '93, Γ628 Mike Karr '93, Γ629 Ryan Soukup '93, Γ631 Brent Karstens '93, Γ634 Eric Dam '93, Γ636 Justin Sindt '93, Γ637 Kevin Buhrman '93, Γ640 Warren Coulter '93, Γ641 Bill Japp Jr. '93, Γ642 Aaron "A.D." Dauel '94, Γ650 Heather and Drew Glasshoff '95, Γ672 Kenton Schegg '95, Γ675 Jed Christensen '95, Γ671 The Family of Beverly and Chad Villwok '95, Γ666

\$25,000 to \$49,999

Boyd Stuhr '53, Γ21 Eli L. Thomssen '56, Γ77 Edward Banning '59, Γ95 Milvern Noffke '59, Γ99 Wayne Wood '67, Γ195 Jill and Matt Keating '80, Γ416 Amy and Todd Shane '81, Γ423 Folkers Family Gift Dean R. Folkers '84, Γ468 Ryan A. Folkers '91, Γ606 Spath Family Gift Kris and Steward Spath '84, Γ477 Trevor Spath '15, Γ1013 Kevin T. Lytle '85, Γ484 Mike Miller '86, Γ502 Bill Munn '87, Γ520 Brase Family Gift Mark K. Brase '87, Γ528 Mitch Brase '94, Γ654 Todd Franzen '96, Γ683 Chris P. Manske '96, Γ 687

\$10,000 to \$24,999 Anonymous Al Bell '53, Γ1 Donald C. Meiergerd '59, Γ119 Richard Overy '63, Γ137 Wayne E. Hake '66, Γ168 John Watson '67, Γ204 Marcile and Loren E. Katt '70, Γ230 Sharon and Richard Katt '71, Γ255 In memory of Paul J. Jacobsen '71, Γ254 Lyle Kinley Jr. '75, Γ313 Karna and Dwight J. Dam '80, Γ401 James and Alice Dam In honor of Dwight Dam '80, Γ401, David Dam '86, Γ503, and Eric Dam '93, Γ636 Darin Armstrong '84, Γ480 Gary Kahle '84, Γ482 Brad Kresak '85, Γ486

Greg Hoegermeyer '87, Γ517

Dana Soukup '88, Γ532 Doug Kriete '88, Γ540 Corey Huck '88, Γ547 Brian Nedrow '89, Γ556 Dr. Jeff Jacobs '90, Γ575 Andrew Bellis '90, Γ584 Dean Acheson '92, Γ610 Holtmeier Brothers Kirk Holtmeier '92, Γ623 and Mike Holtmeier '01, Γ781 Brian Wieman '95, Γ674 Roubal Family Gif Tony Roubal '05, Γ849 Zane Roubal '08, Γ912 Clay Roubal '11, Γ946 Robinson Family Gift Wes and Johnna Robinson Austin Robinson '15, Γ1020 Cory Robinson '18, Γ1087 Chvala Family Gift Jan Chvala Tom Chvala Tracy Chyala

\$5,000 to \$9,999

In honor of

Dierks Family Gift Kyle Upp '15, Γ1006 Thomas L. Dierks In honor of Sen. Merton "Cap" Dierks '53, Γ2 Stanley Eberspacher '53, Γ3 Roy D. Volzke '54, Γ39 Elwin L. Mosier '56, Γ60 In memory of Lou A. Mosier Larry M. Lutz '56, Γ70 C. Blair Williams '58, Γ90 Gen. Darrel D. Thomssen '58, Γ104 John Miller '64, Γ144 In memory of Burton L. Thompson '64 William Schuster '64, Γ154

Robert L. Urban '72, Γ271

Patricia Madsen, Housemother

CAMPAIGN STATUS AT-A-GLANCE

As of October 13, 2020

Campaign Goal: **\$2.5 Million**

Total Commitments: \$2,123,757

Total Contributors: **206**

Want to make a gift online or via credit card? Visit **tinyurl.com/agsunlcapital** for our online giving form.

Jon Propst '73, Γ286 Michael Foley '75, Γ310 Kelly Keaschall '76, Γ323 Gary W. Vorderstrasse '75, Γ333 Galen Kuska '78, Γ363 Barton Ruth '78, Γ365 Charles R. Peterson Jr. '79, Γ380 Susan and Gary A. Schultz '82, F443 D. Kent Thompson '83, Γ454 Lane Christenson '84, Γ457 Craig Wietjes '84, Γ476 David Gibbens '85, Γ489 Michael Henry '85, Γ499 In honor of Mike Gladys and Justin Henry, Γ1033 Gerald Lentfer '85, Γ493 Mark Hastreiter '86, Γ504

Dr. Shawn Semin '88, Γ534



Cory Bergt '88, Γ535 Douglas Holtzen '88, Γ536 Cary L. Sandell '88, Γ541 Kurt Loseke '88, Γ545 John S. Goertzen '88, Γ553 Chris Lesiak '89, Γ554 Jeffrey Sall '89, Γ555 Uhlman Family Gift Thomas Uhlman '89, Γ558 Jacob Uhlman '17, Γ1048 Chris A. Wormuth '89, Γ 559 Pat L. Kroese '89, Γ564 Mark Frank '90, Γ581 Amy and Bruce Williams '91, Γ590 In honor of the Pledge Class of 1991 Dale Tvrdy '91, Γ592 In honor of the Pledge Class of 1991 Matthew Jedlicka '91, Γ605 In honor of the Pledge Class of 1991 Daniel Miller '92, Γ617 Doug Knobbe '96, Γ678 Craig George '96, Γ686 Adam Thompson '96, Γ692 Joel Clements '97, Γ699 Scott D. Peterson '97, Γ703 Adam Pavelka '98, Γ721 Jason Penke '99, Γ751 Jerad Hutchens '00, Γ773 Brad Heinrichs '01, Γ785 Grant M. Wallace, M.D. '05, \Gamma852 Chelsea and Lane Merz '08, Γ905 Jordan T. Busboom '13, Γ977 Mom Pat and John Madsen

\$1,000 to \$4,999

Anonymous Charles Schuerman '53, Γ19 Dale G. Anderson, Ph.D. '54, Γ30 Howard Atkins '54, Γ31 Max Ronne '54, Γ35 Harvey Tripple '55, Γ56 Loyal Quandt '56, Γ72 James M. Eriksen '56, Γ73 Robert G. Ficke '57, Γ83 Lyle G. Harms '57, Γ78 Tom George '58, Γ88 Lyle H. Wright '59, Γ94 Donna Nedrow In memory of Bernard Bruce Nedrow '60, Γ102 Bruce Meyer '61, Γ111 Virgil F. Wagner '61, Γ114 Daniel Knievel '61, Γ124 Ben Schole '65, Γ161 Duane W. Krajnik '66, Γ171

Keith Niemann '67, Γ190

David Strotman '68, Γ203 In memory of Brent Zeller '69 Kent Zeller '68, Γ205 Steve Hanks '69, Γ220 Dale Ekart '69, Γ227 Doug Deats '72, Γ264 Daryl Wilton '72, Γ274 Gregory Fiala '76, Γ328 Karen and Tim Tielke '80, Γ399 Todd Baker '80, Γ403 Michael Barrett '83, Γ449 Brian Horning '83, Γ452 Dennis Althouse '84, Γ467 Gregerson Family Gift Tammy and Tim Gregerson '84, Γ469 Garret Gregerson '13, Γ978 Matt Bergmeyer '87, Γ523 Mike Zalman '87, Γ524 Troy Bredenkamp '87, Γ530 Craig Lytle '88, Γ539 Mark "Jorgy" Jorgensen, Γ543 Bill Smith '88, Γ552 David Kyes '89, Γ567 In memory of Marvin Kyes '56 Matthew Silverman '89, Γ569 Mike Underwood '90, Γ588 Brian Scherling '95, Γ667 Nathan Ohlrich '98, Γ724 Andy Walden '99, Γ753 Adam Grabenstein '00, Γ757 Jeff Schlechte '00, Γ767 Nathan Mueller '01, Γ779 Michael Flyr '01, Γ795 Panko Family Gift David Panko '04, Γ843 Joshua VanDeWalle '04, Γ831 Romshek Family Gift Dustin Romshek '06, Γ867 In memory of Dennis Romshek '78, Γ367 Trevor Watson '07, Γ888 Amanda and Adam Brown '07, Γ892 Jeremy Schreiber '08, Γ898 Benson Wallace '08, Γ908 Logan Schweitzer '08, Γ913 Taylor Collins '11, Γ949 Colton Ratham '14, Γ1001

CONSTRUCTION TIMELINE OUTLINED

We are so grateful to all those who took time to be a part of our Zoom meetings this summer about the future of our chapter house. After being at a crossroads with deciding on a location, the Gamma Chapter Alumni Association realized that having our home at 3455 Holdrege was undoubtedly the best place to prepare our brothers for life for many years to come.

While we're making our home at 3455 Holdrege, we will ensure that the great memories hundreds of brothers experienced at 4001 Holdrege will be well documented while walking through our new chapter house. The timeline has been laid out as follows:

- ☑ 9/21/2020 (closed on sale of 4001 Holdrege)
- 9/23/2020 (formal plan designs went to three contractors for bidding of project at 3455 Holdrege)
- ☑ 10/8/2020 (Hampton Construction bid was approved by the Alumni Association Board)
- □ 10/30/2020 (anticipated closing on purchase of 3455 Holdrege)
- ☐ 11/9/2020 (anticipated beginning of construction at 3455 Holdrege)
- □ 5/31/2021 (lease of 2nd and 3rd floors at 3455 Holdrege ends and patch/paint/readying of rooms for fall move-in commences)
- □ 7/30/2021 (anticipated completion of construction at 3455 Holdrege)
- ☐ August 2021 (Alpha Gamma Sigma moves in)

Our new home at 3455 Holdrege was built in 2014 and offers the modern living arrangements that college-age men are craving. The spacious accommodations will include 28 apartments on the second and third floors, study and lounge areas, chapter and dining rooms, a kitchen, and a house director's apartment on the first floor.

We're excited to provide more updates on 3455 Holdrege as they develop. Until then, please remember that every dollar counts when it comes to providing financial stability for Gamma Chapter. To help Gamma Chapter grow during this exciting transition in our brotherhood's history, join our list of loyal donors today. Gifts can be made by visiting our online giving website at tinyurl.com/agsunlcapital or by filling out the enclosed pledge form. Thank you for your dedication to Gamma Chapter!

BUILDING GAMMA CHAPTER AND A GREAT CAREER FROM THE GROUND UP

Founding Member Dale Van Vleck '53, \(\Gamma 22 \) Shares Why He Supported the Capital Campaign

s Gamma Chapter embarks on a new chapter of our brotherhood's history with purchasing a new chapter house at 3455 Holdrege, it's important to take some time to reflect on Alpha Gamma Sigma's history at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. We're so thankful for the 200+ donors who have graciously supported Gamma Chapter's capital campaign, and want to give a special shout-out to founding

members Dale Van Vleck '53, \(\Gamma \) F22; Boyd Stuhr '53, \(\Gamma \) F21; Charles Schuerman '53, \(\Gamma \) F19; Stanley Eberspacher '53, \(\Gamma \) F3; the family of Merton "Cap" Dierks '53, \(\Gamma \) F2; and Al Bell '53, \(\Gamma \) F1 for their generous contributions. We caught up with Dale Van Vleck to get his thoughts on Gamma Chapter's beginnings, Gamma Chapter's future, and the parallels between his Alpha Gamma Sigma experience and his career.

Becoming a Gamma Chapter founding member capped off Dale's undergraduate experience at UNL. Dale went to high school with Cap Dierks and was his roommate for their four years at UNL, so it was an easy decision for him to follow his good friend's lead.

"Cap wanted to start a fraternity," Dale said.
"We were both founders, but I really consider him to be the founder. The other 22 of us joined for various reasons, but my real reason for joining was to support Cap."

During Dale's lone year of living in the chapter house, he gained some valuable skills as Gamma Chapter's first house manager. "I planned meals, assigned cleaning duties, and asked members for rent," Dale said. "I probably learned a little bit about human nature by doing that."

While Gamma Chapter had a solid base with its founding member class, Dale worried that sustaining success would be easier said than done because more than half of the members in the founding class were seniors. Of those, five



were in the top 10 for GPAs in the College of Agriculture.

"All those men were leaving, so I was really worried whether there were enough remaining people to keep the chapter alive," Dale said. "They did come through and the chapter is still going strong some 67 years later. One reason for my donation is to help the chapter continue thriving. Another reason was to support the many

alumni who have put a lot of effort into finding a way to get a much-needed new house. A very important reason was to honor Cap."

Just as Dale helped build Gamma Chapter from the ground up, he did the same with his career. Dale and his brother and sister didn't have many resources to be successful while growing up on their family's small farm on the eastern border of the Sandhills, but much has changed since then. Education is now deeply rooted into his family, and Dale is proud to be a part of it. "I think I counted up that there were three Ph.Ds., two M.Ds., three masters' of science, and 14 bachelors' of science degrees among us and our 12 children," Dale said. "We didn't start with much. I think what we did is pretty remarkable."

Dale served in the U.S. Army Chemical Corps from 1955-57 before getting his Ph.D. at Cornell University. After his graduation from Cornell, he began his 29-year tenure as a faculty member in Cornell's Department of Animal Science. Dale retired as professor emeritus in 1988, but went on to work as a research geneticist at the U.S. Meat Animal Research Center jointly with UNL as a professor of animal science. He worked mostly with graduate students.

"I've worked for people from over 70 different countries. I've had 49 Ph.D. students and 32 master of science students," Dale said. "I advised and mentored 16 undergraduates who went on for advanced degrees in my field of quantitative animal genetics. I think I've worked with about 50 visiting scientists who

Give a Gift of Grain

Did you know there's more than one way to support *The Campaign for Alpha Gamma Sigma*? Gamma Chapter would like to remind our generous brothers of our Gift of Grain opportunity. Those who are able may donate a number of bushels to the chapter, which will be equivalent to a one-time campaign contribution or a payment on your existing pledge. All you need to do is transport the grain to a facility of your choice, put the AGS Alumni Association in contact with the facility via our gift of grain form, and we'll take care of the rest.

If you are interested in giving a gift of grain or have any questions, please email our campaign coordinator at hneth@penningtonco. com for the gift of grain form.

Why We Gave

"Alpha Gamma Sigma taught me the importance of leadership and getting involved, and it gave me great alumni mentors and friends. This may not be a great time in agriculture, but the Gift of Grain is a great opportunity to give back to the house. It reduces our tax liability and effectively strengthens our contribution."

-Bruce Williams '91, Γ590

"We decided to give this way as it was easier to just cut the check straight from the ethanol plant to the AGS Alumni Association. It was very convenient once we got the form, and then it took only an extra couple of minutes and emails to complete."

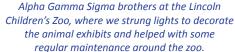
-Mike Holtmeier '01, Γ781, Kirk Holtmeier '92, Γ623

have come to work with me at various times at Cornell and UNL."

While Dale's career was built upon hard work and what he thinks was a lot of good luck, he's quick to point out that he's been fortunate to work with some amazing people. Dale made some crucial decisions during his career that paid dividends. He believes similar results will come from the decision Gamma Chapter has made to buy a new chapter house at 3455 Holdrege.

You can connect with Dale at dvan-vleck@unl.edu.







The Gamma Chapter with house director, Pat Madsen, this fall.

GAMMA CHAPTER ACTIVES FIND POSITIVE WAYS TO COPE WITH COVID-19

Academics, Philanthropy, and Brotherhood Bonds Remain Strong

he men of $A\Gamma\Sigma$ have taken on city campus with vigor and are working our tails off to have a great year here! We, as a chapter, have been striving to not let our experience be lessened by any outside factors. We remain positive and have been overjoyed to be back with our brothers in Lincoln. We are confident we will keep growing and learning this semester together as brothers.

Making the Most of a Tough Situation

The name of the game this year is creativity. We have asked ourselves, How can we safely provide and have a great college experience? We are getting creative with brotherhood and philanthropic events. We see tremendous value in representing our community positively and growing closer as brothers. We took a whole Sunday to volunteer at the Lincoln Children's Zoo. We had a great time helping them hang lights and other decorations to make this public destination in Lincoln look great. We also have an outdoor brotherhood event planned where we will be playing paint ball.

Academically Driven

Alpha Gamma Sigma men are also striving to uphold the scholarship principle with the transition to a hybrid learning environment. We want to keep building on the momentous semester we had last spring. Our GPA increased by nearly 0.2. We were in the top five among fraternities; we want to be within the top three for the fall semester.

Focused on Safety and the Future

We have put in place strict COVID-19 policies that have ensured the safety of our members. While things may look different, the brotherhood in the house is stronger than ever. We have many projects and improvements we have planned for this semester. We recently overhauled our chapter website. We would love to keep you up to date with what we are doing through the website and our social media, which you'll find below.

Grateful for Generous Alumni

The active chapter thanks our alumni for your ongoing efforts and support of Gamma Chapter. Without your support and guidance, we would not be able to grow and be a chapter that produces outstanding leaders.

Fraternally, **Jake Judge '17, Γ1050** Chapter President

Find More Updates Online!



www.agsunl.org











@ags_unl



CHAPTER ETERNAL

elvin "Mike" Meierhenry '55, Γ54 entered Chapter Eternal on August 5, at the age of 89. He is survived by his wife, Pat, three children, nine grandchildren, and many more family and friends. Roy Volzke '54, Γ39 writes, "I had great admiration for Mike and all that he accomplished in spite of his polio disability. He will be greatly missed by all but he has gone to be with his Savior in Heaven." The family has suggested memorials to Faith Lutheran Church, the Orphan Grain Train, or the Rotary International Foundation.



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

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Successful 2020 Recruitment for AΓΣ at UNL

ummer 2020 recruitment was one of the most character-building and challenging things I have ever done in regard to everything going on in the world, but I believe that at the end of the summer we came out with one of the best pledge classes on campus. We gained 17 great men with the will and drive to keep the tradition of Alpha Gamma Sigma thriving.

If you would like to get know a little more about these young men, I implore you to go to www.agsunl.org and look under the Recruitment 2020 tab. We are extremely excited to see where this new member class will go in the future and what they help our chapter accomplish.

As head recruitment chairman, I am excited to help guide our next recruitment chairman into next summer's recruitment season and usher in the next phase of Alpha Gamma Sigma at 3455!

As always, if you know of anyone that could make a great addition to our brotherhood please reach out and let me know.

Fraternally,

Mikael Harrop '18, Γ1081, Head Recruitment Chairman mikael.harrop.1999@gmail.com



WELCOME TO THE BROTHERHOOD!

Jakob Anderjaska | Hayes Center, Neb. | Agricultural Education Brody Benson | Valentine, Neb. | Mechanical Systems Blaine Bonifas | Aurora, Neb. | Agronomy Kaden Cornelius | Shelton, Neb. | Accounting Colton Husa | Beatrice, Neb. | Agricultural Education Alex Jarecke | Stuart, Neb. | Advertising and Public Relations Jace Leibhart | Merna, Neb. | Turfgrass Management Aaron Meyer | Beatrice, Neb. | Elementary Education Wyatt Rebbe | Hooper, Neb. | Finance Zane Rikli | Greenwood, Neb. | Agricultural Engineering Carter Rohrer | Hickman, Neb. | Agribusiness Trevor Ross | Callaway, Neb. | Animal Science Boden Ruskamp | Beatrice, Neb. | Mechanical Engineering Owen Schramm | David City, Neb. | Undeclared Bailey Waltke | DeWitt, Neb. | Undeclared Connor Wickless | Omaha, Neb. | Actuarial Science

Cole Wilson | Imperial, Neb. | COMM Business

Above: The fall 2020 new member class with our recruitment team. From left, Vice Recruitment Chairman Wyatt Hubbard '18, Г1078, Head Recruitment Chairman Mikael Harrop '18, Γ1081, and Secretary Recruitment Chairman Logan Anderson '19, Г1091.