



# IOTA CRESCENT

Alpha Gamma Rho University of Wisconsin-Madison December 2025 wisconsinagr.com

## When Young Men Need Us Most

By Jordan Gaal #1616

For over a century, AGR has been in the business of making better men. Today, that mission has never been more critical.

According to Pew Research Center, among Americans aged 25 to 34, women now outpace men in bachelor's degree completion by ten percentage points, 47% versus 37%. Federal data shows 66% of recent female high school graduates enroll in college compared to just 57% of men. In 1995, men and women graduated at equal rates. Today, that parity has vanished.

These aren't just statistics. They represent sons, brothers and future leaders quietly falling behind.

### Why Brotherhood Matters Now

"Young men are being left behind, and the data supports me on this," says **Bill Boehm #45** Alpha Psi, member of AGR's Education Board of Directors and University of Wisconsin-River Falls Alpha Psi Chapter brother. "Men don't tend to make friends as easily as women do. Too many struggle with insecurities and feelings of being alone. Greek life can and does make the difficult transition to adulthood easier for men."

Research backs up what Boehm has witnessed across six decades. According to a University of Nebraska-Lincoln study, Greek organizations maintain a 90.1% retention rate, nearly eight points higher than the campus average. Pew Research reveals that 84% of teenage boys report having a friend for emotional support, compared to 95% of girls. Young men can benefit from structured communities that foster genuine connection.

### The AGR Difference

What sets AGR apart is our link to professional careers and commitment to agriculture and related industries. "With a little personal effort, AGR does last a lifetime," Boehm notes.

The challenges young men face extend beyond enrollment. Bureau of Labor Statistics data shows men's labor force participation has declined from 94% in 1975 to 89% today, while women's participation climbed from 55% to 78%. AGR's professional focus connects undergraduates to careers in agriculture, food systems and agribusiness while building essential leadership skills.

"If an undergraduate simply pays attention, the things that happen in the college fraternity experience are try-outs for life," Boehm explains. The recruitment process mirrors the job market. Learning to live with diverse chapter brothers prepares men for workplace dynamics. Leadership roles teach responsibility. Managing finances, making tough decisions—all are real-life rehearsals for adulthood.

### Our Moment To Lead

At a time when young men are searching for direction and purpose, AGR offers exactly what they need: A professional pathway, lifelong connections and a community committed to making better men.

"I have seen AGR evolve over my life without giving up on the ideas that created the organization in the first place," Boehm reflects.

But understanding requires action. Through consistent monthly support from alumni, we're building stability that enables strategic investments in scholarships, chapter house maintenance and leadership development.

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Our condolences to the families of brothers who have passed away.

**Greg Bovre #772** of Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin, passed away on September 13, 2025.

**Ralph H. Stauffacher #644** of Sun Prairie, Wisconsin, passed away on September 21, 2025.

## Dr. Jay Makovec Helps Keep Farmers Moving

Featured recently in the Mid-West Farm Report, **Dr. Jay Makovec #1415** draws on his farm background to serve rural communities as a chiropractor and wellness educator. He shines a light on why aches like “pain in the neck” often serve as a body’s “check engine light,” especially for those spending long days behind the wheel of a tractor or lifting heavy loads. He emphasizes that “movement is medicine, motion is lotion” and encourages farmers to proactively care for their bodies so they can keep strong and mobile, not just when pain strikes.



Read More



## AGR National Fraternal Excellence Awards

The Iota Chapter has been recognized at the 2025 AGR National Fraternal Excellence Awards! The chapter received:

- High Honor for Chapter Crescent Feature Story
- High Honor for Continued Alumni Engagement
- Honorable Mention for Committed Alumni Corporation

These awards reflect the dedication of our brothers and alumni to strengthening our chapter and living out the values of AGR.

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“The impact of AGR Iota ripples far beyond our years on campus,” says **Keith Kuehn #829**, Sustain Iota committee member. “From doctors and researchers to agricultural industry leaders, our alumni demonstrate the lasting value of the AGR experience.”

When Boehm was initiated, he knew it was about making a life commitment. “My parting plea is to ask every AGR reading this article to recommit personally because that’s how we’ll stay relevant,” he says. When young men need us most, AGR Iota is ready to answer the call.

Bill Boehm’s interview was originally featured in the Fall issue of National Alpha Gamma Rho’s Sickel & Sheaf Magazine.

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## From The President's Desk *The Power of a Support Network*

By Eric Ronk #1488 - President, Corporation Board



As we move through life, the value of a strong support network becomes increasingly clear. As I work with the collegiate chapter members in this role, they often find themselves caught up in the hustle of classes, internships, social events and the constant pressure to succeed. In the midst of it all, we tend to share only the highlight reel of our lives, especially on social media. But life isn't just about the wins—it's also about the challenges, and how we face them with the help of others. In AGR, we often talk about lifelong brotherhood, but it's in life's toughest moments that this truly comes to light.

This past August, I underwent surgery for a herniated disc in my neck. They removed the disc and inserted a new titanium one. The surgery went well without any complications, but it was a humbling experience and clearly painful with a mix of mentally draining moments. It was the first time in my 12-year career that I needed to use leave time for an extended period. I am extremely grateful for a supportive partner in life and family that helped me out. However, it has been a process, and I am still going to physical ther-

apy. But what also made a big difference was the support I received from my brothers in AGR. From texts and calls to visits and check-ins, their presence reminded me that I wasn't alone. Brotherhood isn't just about shared experiences during the good times—it's about showing up when someone needs you most.

In college, we build our networks through shared experiences like late nights studying, chapter events and the ups and downs of young adulthood. But as alumni, our networks evolve. Careers take us in different directions, families grow and time becomes scarce. Yet the need for connection never fades. Whether it's navigating a health challenge, a career transition or personal loss, having someone to lean on makes all the difference.

So, here's my challenge to our alumni: Reach out to a brother this week. Not just to congratulate, but to check in. Ask how they're really doing. You never know what someone might be going through behind the scenes. You might be the support they didn't know they needed.

Fraternally,  
Eric Ronk

## AGR Brothers Gather for Homecoming Tailgate

Hello fellow AGR brothers,

We couldn't have asked for a better day for our AGR Homecoming tailgate in early October. The sun was shining, spirits were high, and we had a wonderful turnout of brothers and friends. A special thanks goes to the collegiate chapter members, who showed up in impressive numbers and stayed to visit for much of the afternoon.

We were also joined by many alumni and friends in agriculture, making for a great mix of old and new faces. The food was excellent, the drinks were flowing, and—though the Badgers couldn't quite pull off a win against Iowa—the camaraderie more than made up for it.

Having a night game for Homecoming was a unique twist, allowing us even more time to enjoy the tailgate together. With a little luck and a few prayers, maybe next year we'll be celebrating a win alongside our gathering.

Thank you to every AGR brother who joined us for the Homecoming celebration and throughout the season. Week after week, we've seen strong attendance from both collegiate members and alumni, proving once again that AGR pride runs deep—no matter how the football season goes.

On, Wisconsin!  
Zach Lieven #1391



## State Of The Chapter

By Derek Gehin #1775 - Noble Ruler

Dear Brothers and Colleagues,

It has been an honor to serve as Noble Ruler for 2025. Through the ups and downs of the year, I have grown both as a leader and as a man. I cannot express enough gratitude to those who supported me along the way and helped make 2025 a success for the brothers of the Iota Chapter. We are fortunate to have an incredible group of alumni who continue to prepare us not only for our roles within the house but also for life beyond college.

While 2025 brought its share of challenges, we ultimately came out ahead. Throughout the year, our brothers traveled to Chicago and Kansas for leadership development events, enjoyed a memorable spring formal in Wisconsin Rapids, and welcomed 15 new members into the chapter this fall. We strengthened our brotherhood at our annual Brewers trip in September and during gameday festivities, even if the Badgers were playing poorly. The semester isn't over yet, with officer elections in early December, Winter Formal on the horizon, and everyone's favorite week of the year—finals—still to come.

Over the past few weeks, I've often been asked one simple question: What's next? While the answer will largely depend on the incoming officer team, I can confidently say that AGR has a bright future ahead. The past year has brought meaningful progress. The Competitive Edge Program was redesigned and expanded, leading to one of our strongest recruitment classes in recent years. Membership development also saw major improvements thanks to the efforts of **Brian Styer #1786**. The program is now more engaging and includes valuable skills such as playing sheephead and building a professional résumé.

As in previous years, our brothers have remained active in the community by volunteering for the Badger Challenge and organizing our annual food drive for the Open Seat Food Pantry. These efforts reflect what it means to be part of AGR: serving others, strengthening our community, and continually striving to become better men.



## Brotherhood in Action at World Dairy Expo 2025

By Gage Anderson #1780

The last week of September marked the start of a busy and exciting two weeks as World Dairy Expo returned to Madison. For many AGR brothers, this annual event is one of the most anticipated times of the year—offering unmatched opportunities to gain hands-on experience, network with industry leaders and contribute to a world-class agricultural showcase.

This year, four brothers served on the World Dairy Expo Chair Team through the Badger Dairy Club: **Drew Dettmann #1758**, **Derek Gehin #1775**, **Gage Anderson #1780** and **Brian Styer #1786**. Working closely with Expo staff, they coordinated daily logistics to keep the show running smoothly for exhibitors and attendees. Their leadership and dedication exemplify the values our chapter strives to cultivate.

Many additional brothers in Badger Dairy Club and Collegiate Farm Bureau also played key roles throughout the grounds—supporting operations in the showing, signage, milkhouse and more. Although the days were long and the mornings early, the experience created lasting memories and strengthened the bonds of brotherhood. From lighthearted radio chatter to golf cart runs and shared responsibilities in the ring, camaraderie was at the heart of the work.

Brothers also stepped up at the iconic Badger Dairy Club and Collegiate Farm Bureau Grilled Cheese Stand, a favorite stop for Expo visitors and a major fundraiser for both organizations. Proceeds support valuable educational experiences, including leadership conferences, seasonal study tours and the multi-day spring trip.

Several brothers took to the colored shavings as well. **Garrett Ulness #1772** and **Matthew Winch #1808** competed in showmanship, with Matthew also exhibiting in the Milking Shorthorn and Red & White Holstein shows—earning third junior in both the cow and calf divisions.

Overall, it was a rewarding and successful World Dairy Expo for AGR. Whether serving behind the scenes, supporting club fundraisers or competing in the showing, brothers demonstrated excellence, commitment, and pride in representing the fraternity throughout the event.

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SAE racing and intramural sports. Outside of college, Jake enjoys cars, soccer, fishing and mountain biking.

**Sam Stuczynski #1818**, from Amherst, WI, is studying Agronomy. On campus, Sam is involved in Badger Crops Club, Collegiate Farm Bureau, and is a jumper for the Wisconsin Track Club. He also plans to join the Badger Dairy Club soon. Sam enjoys hunting, showing pigs, raising beefers, working out, water sports and hopes to continue making memories with the brothers of AGR.

## Meet the Fall 2025 New Member Class

This fall, our chapter proudly welcomed a new class of brothers whose diverse backgrounds, talents, and passions strengthen the brotherhood of AGR. Get to know the newest members of our fraternity as they begin their journeys in brotherhood, leadership, and lifelong connection.

**Gus Neal #1804**, from Fairlie, New Zealand, is an international exchange student for the Fall 2025 semester, hailing from Lincoln University, NZ, studying for a Bachelor of Agricultural Science. Gus is involving himself in clubs such as Badger Crops Club and the Collegiate Farm Bureau Club, while also contributing to events such as World Dairy Expo and volunteering activities. Gus will return home to New Zealand at the end of the year to graduate from his bachelor's programme.

**Alex Roe #1805**, from Monticello, Wis., is majoring in Agronomy and Agricultural and Applied Economics with a certificate in Agribusiness Management. After college, Alex plans on taking over his family's cash crop grain farm and commercial grain elevator with his two siblings. He is a part of the Badger Dairy Club, Badger Crops Club, Collegiate Farm Bureau, and will be joining the Badger Crops Judging Team. Alex enjoys working on the farm, working out and spending time with brothers at the house.

**Olof Odenstroemer #1806**, from Huskvarna, Sweden, is pursuing a Master of Science in Finance and Strategic Management at Copenhagen Business School. He is currently at UW–Madison's business school for his Fall 2025 exchange semester. He enjoys the strong brotherhood, shared values and opportunities for leadership and personal growth that AGR provides. Outside of AGR, Olof is active both academically and socially. He has studied abroad at Singapore Management University and enjoys sports and spending time with friends.

**Wyatt Dorshorst #1807**, from Marshfield, Wis., is majoring in Biological Systems Engineering with the goal of one day working in the dairy industry. Dorshorst was set on attending UW–Madison and was interested in joining AGR before stepping on campus. In his free time, he is a member of the Badger Dairy Club and Badger Pulling Team and will be joining the Dairy Judging Team. Wyatt also markets registered Red and White and Black and White Holstein genetics with his siblings.

**Matthew Winch #1808**, from Fennimore, Wis., is studying Dairy and Food Animal Management on the pre-veterinary track. On campus, Matthew is involved with Badger Dairy Club, Collegiate Farm Bureau and plans to be a part of the Dairy Judging Team. He enjoys clipping and showing dairy cows, hunting, working out and making good memories with the brothers at the AGR house.

**Armando Rovella #1809**, from Kenosha, Wis., is studying finance, with the goal of one day working in corporate finance as a financial analyst. After joining in Fall 2025,



Front Row (L-R): Ben Lukasek (VNR-Recruitment), Tyler Eaton, Rylan Headington, Ivan Hudson, Alex Roe, Olof Odenströmer, Connor Rennicke (VNR-Recruitment)  
Second Row (L-R): Carter Lenzner, Wyatt Dorshorst, Charlie Reeder, Armando Rovella  
Third Row (L-R): Matthew Winch, Reyes Murillo  
Back Row (L-R): Issac Ziebarth, Angus Neal

he's enjoyed meeting all the members and experiencing Madison with his brothers. He enjoys fishing, reading and hanging out with friends in his free time.

**Carter Lenzner #1810**, from Valders, Wis., is majoring in Biological Systems Engineering in hopes of one day working for John Deere or Case IH. In his free time, he is a member of the Madison Quarter Scale Tractor Team and Crops Club. Along with this, Carter spends his time playing cards with friends, hunting, shooting trap when he can and playing video games with others.

**Charlie Reeder #1811**, from Sun Prairie, Wis., is studying Biological Systems Engineering on the Machinery Systems track, with the goal of one day working in the off-road vehicle industry. Charlie is also involved in the UW Swim Club, Badger Pulling and ABASE. He enjoys fixing engines, being outside and working out.

**Murillo Reyes #1813**, from Madison, Wis., is pursuing Agricultural Business Management with two certificates, one in Food Systems and the other in Business Spanish. Since joining AGR in Fall 2025, he has felt supported in his fraternity, where networking and meeting new people have helped him. His passion for firefighting reflects the same values—teamwork, courage and dedication to helping others—that guide him both in the fraternity and in serving his community.

**Tyler Eaton #1814**, from Hayward, Wis., is studying Wildlife Ecology with the intent to double major in Forest Science, with a goal of becoming a private land manager. Outside of his studies, he has joined the Club Baseball Team at UW–Madison and has participated in two intramural football teams and an intramural basketball team. Outside of college life, Tyler enjoys hunting, fishing, farming, filming and photography.

**Ivan Hudson #1815**, from Oakland, Calif., is a freshman studying Biological Systems Engineering and is pursuing certificates in Fermented Foods and Beverages and Business Management for Agricultural and Life Sciences. Outside of his studies, Ivan is an active member of UW–Madison's fishing team and the Badger Pulling Team. He enjoys playing intramural sports (football and basketball) with his fraternal brothers, hunting with family and making new friends around campus.

**Rylan Headington #1816**, from Sun Prairie, Wis., is studying Biological Systems Engineering. Since joining AGR in Fall 2025, he has been surrounded by supportive young men who have helped him in every way possible. Rylan is also involved in Badger Pulling and ASABE and will soon be a member of Collegiate Farm Bureau. He enjoys hunting, fishing and being outdoors, and hopes to spend more time with his brothers at AGR.

**Jacob Jost #1817**, from Helena, Mont., is studying Mechanical Engineering with hopes of pursuing a career in the automotive industry. On campus, Jake is involved in Baja

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## Anson's Analysis

By Anson Goldade #1245 - President, Educational Foundation

Many of the successes and accomplishments in life I can trace back to the trajectory created by being a member of AGR. Being raised in small rural communities until college created a pretty narrow view of the world and the possibilities that were available to me. Exposure to UW-Madison and a house full of brothers that were dedicated to making themselves and others around them better opened a world of possibilities that I hadn't considered. The AGR experience and the opportunities it created are the reason I want to give back to the organization and hopefully help to create similar stories for brothers that are yet to come.



Recently, I had the pleasure of participating in the 1990s Decade Dinner held at the chapter house. We had approximately 20 alumni and 30 collegiate members who shared dinner, stories and libations. It was a great opportunity for alumni to spend some time in the home they lived in during some of the most formative years of their lives and see how it has changed. Collegiate members met influential alumni, which AGR tends to create in different industries. During dinner and on the card tables afterward, we shared stories that reminded us all of the good times that can be had while making better men.

Reflecting on my personal experience with AGR and that recent dinner reminded me that, in addition to scholarships and chapter house maintenance, the AGR Iota Educational Foundation is also responsible for chapter enhancement. Continuing to enhance the chapter requires engagement from alumni and collegiate members. Take a few minutes and consider how AGR could use your time, talent and treasure to enhance the chapter and write them down.

Reach out to me personally via email at [anson@goldade.us](mailto:anson@goldade.us) or via text/phone at 608-206-5497. I'd love to hear your thoughts and appreciate the opportunity for a conversation about increasing engagement to make a better chapter and, by extension, better men.

## Pay It Forward For The Next Generation Of Iota Brothers

As the year comes to a close, we're reminded of the many ways AGR has shaped our lives—through the friendships we formed, the leadership lessons we learned, and the lifelong values we continue to live out. The AGR Iota Educational Foundation exists to ensure those same opportunities are available for future generations of brothers.

Your year-end gift helps us provide scholarships, leadership development, and educational support that directly benefit Iota Chapter undergraduates. And, with several tax-smart ways to give, you can make an even greater impact before December 31.

### 1. Give Through Your IRA (If Age 70½ or Older)

Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) allow you to donate directly from your IRA to the AGR Iota Educational Foundation. You'll avoid income tax on the distribution, and it counts toward your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD). It's one of the most efficient ways to give—and one many alumni use to maximize their impact each year.

### 2. Donor-Advised Funds (DAFs)

If you have a Donor-Advised Fund, consider recommending a grant to the AGR Iota Educational Foundation before year-end. It's an easy and flexible way to support Iota's future while managing your charitable giving strategically.

### 3. Monthly Giving For Steady Impact

A recurring gift—such as \$25, \$50, or \$100 per month—creates sustained support for scholarships and educational initiatives. It's simple to set up through a monthly ACH transfer or by using the Donate button at [www.wisconsinagr.com/alumni#donating](http://www.wisconsinagr.com/alumni#donating)



Give Now

### 4. Give Appreciated Assets Or Establish A Family Endowment

Donating appreciated stock or creating a family endowment can provide long-term support for AGR students while offering potential tax advantages. Several alumni have chosen this route to leave a lasting legacy tied to their family name.

### 5. Support Through The UW Foundation Or National AGR Educational Foundation

You can also designate your gift to the Iota Fund through the National AGR Educational Foundation or to the AGR Alumni Scholarship Fund at the UW Foundation. Both provide direct support to Iota undergraduates.

Your generosity makes a difference—ensuring Iota Chapter remains a place where young men learn, lead, and grow into the agricultural leaders our industry and communities need.

To make your year-end gift, visit [www.wisconsinagr.com/alumni](http://www.wisconsinagr.com/alumni) or contact **Rick Daluge #787**, Treasurer of the AGR Iota Educational Foundation, for guidance on the best giving option for your situation.

Make your gift by December 31 to take advantage of 2025 tax benefits—and to continue building a stronger future for AGR Iota.

AGR Iota Educational Foundation | Attn: Rick Daluge | 5321 Fairway Drive | Madison, WI 53711 | (608) 345-0865

## ACH Direct Withdrawal Contribution

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Yes, please set up ACH withdrawal from my checking account to support AGR.

Please withdraw each month:

\_\_\_\_ \$10 \_\_\_\_ \$25 \_\_\_\_ \$35 \_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_ \$75 \_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_ Other Amount\*

\*Note the minimum monthly donation amount allowed is \$10. Withdrawals will begin the month after this form is received.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Making It Easier To Donate

We now offer ACH direct withdrawals from your checking account done automatically in the amount that you determine. This makes it convenient and easy to contribute with a smaller amount on autopay.



Simply attach a blank check marked VOID to the form above and send to:

AGR Iota Educational Foundation

C/O Rick Daluge

5321 Fairway Drive

Madison, WI 5371

By indicating your choice of monthly donation, we will set up the automatic withdrawal the month after the form is received.

## AGR Iota Lifetime Giving Tree Keeps Growing Strong

### Celebrating The Generosity Of Our Donors

Our sincere thanks go out to all brothers and friends who have contributed—whether through a one-time gift or years of steady support—to help Make Better Men. Your generosity continues to strengthen the AGR Iota Educational Foundation and the future of our chapter.

We especially recognize and thank the brothers who recently reached new lifetime-giving recognition levels. Their commitment and ongoing generosity serve as an inspiration to all of us.

### Lifetime Donor Tree Recognition



Acorn  
\$25,000 - \$49,999

Lloyd Holterman #953



Gold Leaf  
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James Karpinsky #776  
John Deininger #827  
Dale Emshoff #969  
Richard Holloway #982



Silver Leaf  
\$5,000 - \$9,999

Glen Callin #602  
Arden Hintzmann #649  
Matt Olson #1578



Bronze Leaf  
\$1,000 - \$4,999

Derek Christiansen #1374  
Lou Arrington (Alpha Theta)

Since the Foundation's founding in 1969, more than 600 Iota alumni have made contributions that fuel leadership and learning. These gifts provide:

- Scholarships celebrating undergraduate leadership and academic excellence.
- Support for educational tools and experiences—including technology upgrades and participation in National AGR leadership and training programs.

Every contribution, large or small, continues to help Iota Chapter men grow as leaders in agriculture, in our communities, and in life. Thank you for keeping the Lifetime Giving Tree growing strong.



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## Calendar of Events

### December

- 10** Last Day of Classes
- 12-18** Final Exams
- 14** Commencement

### January

- 20** First day of classes
- 30-31** Top Leaders Institute - Chicago

### February

- 27-28** Recruitment School  
(Kansas City)

### March

- 28** Spring Recess begins

### April

- 6** Classes resume
- 10-11** Founders' Day

### May

- 1** Last Day of Classes
- 3-8** Final Exams
- 9** Commencement

## Save the Date: 2026 Founders' Day April 10–11, 2026

Brothers, mark your calendars! The AGR Iota Chapter Founders' Day celebration will be held April 10–11, 2026, in Madison, Wisconsin.

Join us for a weekend of brotherhood, connection, and celebration as we honor our shared history and the lasting legacy of Alpha Gamma Rho. The weekend will include opportunities to reconnect with alumni, meet the collegiate members, and celebrate the achievements of our chapter.

More details, including the event schedule and registration information, will be shared in the coming months and in the March 2026 Crescent.

We look forward to celebrating with you in Madison this spring!