

Tau Talk

of Sigma Tau Gamma-Gamma Xi Alumni Association
University of Wisconsin-Platteville, Wisconsin
RELAUNCHED FOR 60TH REUNION



60th Reunion Overview

RECONNECTIONS Friday Night, 9/19/25

- Steve's Pizza Gathering
Friday night at 7:00 pm
Pizza – Pay at door; \$20 for Brother and \$4 spouse/guest
 - Beer and soda – Cash Bar
 - Reserved room holds up to 80 people
- Initial time to reconnect and share memories
- Spouses/guests welcome
- Staying locally or living locally, please plan to join!

Have You Registered?

Time is running out!

See the Sigma Tau Gamma-Gamma Xi Website for more information and updates that are posted regularly. [Website Sigma Tau Gamma - Gamma Xi Alumni](#) Sign up today!

SIGNING IN AND ACTIVITIES Saturday, 9/20/25

- Register at the House beginning at 11:00 am
 - Sign-in/receive name tags, receive day's schedule, and pick up a few gifts
 - Connect with Brothers
- Gather around the House
- Afternoon options:
 - House tours
 - Football game (Springfield College) at 1:00 pm
 - Alumni Social Tent (parking lot) at 1:00 pm -- BYOB
 - Campus tour
 - Downtown tours of local venues
 - Free time at your own pace
 - 3:00 pm: Socializing at Ullsvik Center or free time Program

COMING TOGETHER 60TH Reunion – 9/20/25

- Socialize in Ullsvik Hall starting at 3:00 pm
 - Cash bar (3:00 to 10:00 pm)
 - Slideshows and reminiscing
 - Pictures
 - Silent Auction bidding
- Banquet at 6:00 pm
 - Dinner options - chicken, beef, vegetarian
 - Includes salad and choice of dessert
 - Drinks: coffee, milk, iced tea
- Program follows including:
 - Recognition of guests
 - Recognition of various Alumni and Actives
 - Highlights of 1st ten years
 - Scholarship reports
 - Alumni Association Insights
 - Auction winners announced
 - Chapter Eternal Naming
 - AND MUCH, MUCH MORE





STILL LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS:

- Graphic designer to assist in reunion document design. This position will end after the reunion.
- Someone to enhance and update the Alumni Website. Must know Elementor website software. This is an ongoing position and will require limited time.
- Alumni Brother(s) who will work with Actives to maintain the master Gamma Xi contact database. This is an ongoing position that involves updating Brothers' information when it is received.

Interested? Email: gammaxireunion@gmail.com or awatrud@gmail.com or 60threunionhubplanningcommittee@groups.outlook.com.

What's the event?



Answer: Graduation 2021
Winner: Scott Hoglund

Do these Statues have names?
No responses yet. Let's name them. Offer your ideas →
Send: gammaxireunion@gmail.com

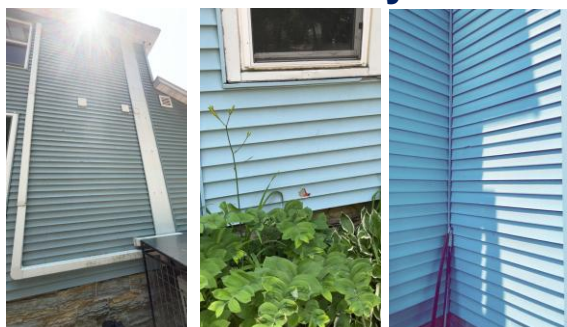


Homecoming 2011

Passing of our Brother Richard Franklin 'Frank' Loy. July 6, 1950 - May 5, 2025

Frank Loy, age 74, of Fariborn, OH, passed away in the comfort of his home on Monday, May 5, 2025. A member of the Iota Pledge Class, Fall 1969, Frank was always approachable, friendly, and willing to lend a hand whenever and wherever he could. More news about Frank, including a link to his obituary appears on the [Sigma Tau Gamma - Gamma Xi Alumni](http://gammamaxialumni.org) (gammamaxialumni.org) website.

Gamma Xi Fraternity House Hit by High Winds and Hail – 4/18/2025



Due to storm damage, the House and Shed roofs are being replaced. Siding on the North side of the House that was installed in 2012 was slightly damaged. Other siding, installed in the late 90s, was undamaged. Luckily there was no window damage. Damage to the fascia and gutters is still being determined. Some cars parked in the lot sustained broken windows. Thankfully, no Brothers or guests were injured.

Damage to the Sig Tau House roof was covered by insurance after a \$5,000 deductible. Our contractor started moving materials to the House the week of June 16. The new roof is expected to be installed by mid July.



Sigma Tau Gamma-Gamma Xi Chapter Alumni Luncheon

In recent years, what started as a small gathering of Brothers, has steadily grown as a monthly luncheon in Verona, WI. Meeting at around 11:30 am at the Stone Porch Bar and Restaurant, 31 are currently on the email list that Bobby Vossberg sends out each month. The gathering lasts until approximately 1:30 PM although it's known to run a little longer depending on group conversations.

This all started in May 2021. Pete Manderfield had asked Mary Pat (Bobby Vosberg's wife) to friend him on Facebook. Mary Pat noted that Pete was living in Oregon so Bobby got Pete's email and asked if they could meet for lunch along with Lash, Allen, and Buzzie. So that is how it all started.

The recent April 16, 2025 meeting had 23 attendees. Brothers came from the local area as well as long distances, sometimes driving over two hours each way to share lunch with the group. Where possible, Brothers share a ride to enjoy conversation along the drive.

Attendees are not rushed to finish and leave; during these past months, brief presentations were done on Reunion materials. In fact, the next several meetings are a review of pictures collected by Dave Jewell for the 60th Reunion. Brothers attending will vote on which ones to include in the photo shows for the Reunion. Those attending the April meeting:

Name	Pledge Class	Name	Pledge Class	Name	Pledge Class
Craig Bareis	<i>GAMMA</i>	David Kaul	<i>Transfer-UW-L</i>	Garon Reinke	<i>ETA</i>
Carl Babler	<i>ETA</i>	Ron Klaas	<i>RHO</i>	Arnie Roper	<i>OMICRON</i>
Mike Bentz	<i>OMICRON</i>	Eugene Laschinger	<i>MU</i>	Dave Smith	<i>PI</i>
Bob Borucki	<i>LAMBDA</i>	Pete Manderfield	<i>OMICRON</i>	Bobby Vosberg	<i>SIGMA</i>
John Busby	<i>RHO</i>	Jerry Miller	<i>KAPPA</i>	Jim Vosberg	<i>TAU</i>
Jeff Grefe	<i>OMICRON</i>	Greg Nauman	<i>LAMBDA</i>	Allen Watrud	<i>MU</i>
Steve Holzhuefer	<i>MU</i>	Dennis Olson	<i>DELTA</i>	Tom Weidenmiller	<i>IOTA</i>
Dave Jewell	<i>RHO</i>	David Quamme	<i>SIGMA</i>		

A group picture from April 16, 2025, luncheon appears below.



REMINDER: Luncheons/outings/events—send your pictures and details for inclusion in the *Tau Talk*.
Send to: gammamaxireunion@gmail.com

Additional News from the Actives...



Group picture before community work project....

The chapter helped the local VFW to clean up Highway 151 by Dickeyville.



Brothers Play for Charity and Win!

Recently Brothers Alex Spottek, Kyler VanRyzin, Seth Anderson, and Jack Cole participated in a charity golf outing for a fellow fraternity on campus. We took first place shooting even par through a nine-hole for man scramble.



Polar Plunge!

Two Brothers, Jon Wicklin and Nolan Johnsrud, participated in the polar plunge in Whitewater, Wisconsin to help raise money for the Special Olympics.

(Thanks to Kyler Van Ryzin for sharing information.)

Phi Alpha Psi/Sigma Tau Gamma Brother on the 60th Reunion Planning Committee offered:

"I originally belonged to a local fraternity, and we became part of Sig Tau during my senior year. We managed to purchase a house on campus, and we rented one off-campus and filled it with brothers. I served as president of the fraternity during that time, and I'm very pleased with the work I did. The camaraderie and philosophy of Sig Tau fit well with our values. I'm still in contact with some of my brothers, and we participate in various activities during the year. My brothers at Sig Tau became my family."

Craig Alan Bareis – 1969 graduate; Gamma Pledge Class – Phi Alpha Psi;
President May 1969 for installation of Sigma Tau Gamma-Gamma Xi Chapter by the National
(*In My Words 2023; Sig Tau Fraternity: The Oral History Project*) <https://sigtau.org/about/history/>

SUCCESS

*"Success is largely the failures you avoid:
Health is the injuries you don't sustain.
Wealth is the purchases you don't make.*

*Happiness is the objects you don't desire.
Peace of mind is the arguments you don't engage in.
Avoid the bad to protect the good."
James Clear, Author of Atomic Habits*





Famous Sig Taus

John (Jack) Link, UW – Stout – Founder of Jack Link's Jerky

Insights by Bob Borucki, Gamma Xi Alumni-Lambda Pledge Class-Researcher and Docent RE: Jack **Links**

The company was founded by John 'Jack' Link in 1985, using the recipes of his great-grandfather, Chris Link, a master sausage maker from Germany. They are known for their "Messin' with Sasquatch" ads. Note: Jack Link's is celebrating its 40th anniversary in 2025. "1st kippered beef came off the line 40 years ago" per John Link.

Link Snacks, Inc., better known as Jack Link's Protein Snacks, or simply Jack Link's (and occasionally mistaken as "Jack's Link's"), is an American snack company best known as the producer and marketer of the eponymous brand of beef jerky.

In addition to their original facility in Minong, WI, the company also has facilities across the Midwest, including in New Glarus, WI; Alpena, SD; Mankato, MN; Laurens, and Underwood, IA; Taylor, MI; Centerville, TN; and its marketing office in Minneapolis, MN. A recent newspaper article dated 3/12/25 report that Jack Links has started hiring for their \$450 million plant in Georgia.

On April 1, 2014, Jack Link's bought Unilever's meat snack division in an attempt to expand its consumer base into Europe. The purchase includes the BiFi brand, sold across Europe; Peperami, which retails in the UK and Ireland; and the manufacturing unit in Ansbach, Germany.

In addition to traditional beef jerky, the company manufactures bacon jerky, made with salt-and-sugar cured pork meat.

John Link, upon learning of the upcoming 60th Reunion, donated a case of Jack Link Jerky for the Silent Auction.

(Personal connections sited by Docent "Bruke," "When we moved out here in 2010 and on days where there was a southern breeze, we could smell the smokehouse aroma. It wasn't a bad aroma. A few years ago, later, they changed their ventilation so no more smokehouse aromas.")



LH pic: Plant in New Glarus, WI RH pic: Partial view of Docent "Bruke's" house seen in upper left.

DONATIONS FOR SILENT AUCTION: Do you have something to donate that you think will sell or possibly know someone who would donate? The item must be available for pickup at the Reunion. **Questions:** please refer to <https://gammamaxialumni.org/>

Further Scholarships Updates

Last issue of the Tau Talk, a brief story touched upon the two scholarships currently sponsored by Sigma Tau Gamma-Gamma Xi Alumni over the past years. More detail appears below on these two scholarships.

Boyd Spikerman Scholarship

Boyd Spikerman grew up in Oak Forest, IL and enrolled at UW-P in Fall of 1970. His field of study was Criminal Justice, with an emphasis in corrections. Known as Spike, he was a member of the Omicron Pledge Class, pledging in the Fall of 1972. Spike finally graduated in 1983; sadly, he lost his life in January 1984 while in the line of duty at the Federal Correctional Institution of Oxford, WI.

The Boyd Spikerman Memorial Scholarship Fund was established later in 1984 with over \$70,000 awarded to 58 deserving Criminal Justice Students to date. The Chairperson of the Criminal Justice Department together with the Faculty Advisor of the Gamma Xi Chapter are responsible for the number and amount of each award, the selection process, and presentation of the award(s). Applicants should be upper class students majoring in Criminal Justice with an emphasis on corrections.

Andy Wimer Scholarship

Andy Wimer grew up in Cassville, Wisconsin. He graduated from UW-Platteville in 1975 with a degree in Accounting. Andy was a member of the Sigma Pledge Class (Spring 1974) and involved in many activities on campus. As an Active and as an Alumni, he was involved in Gamma Xi leadership, management of the House, and coordinating a number of activities. Andy passed away in 2008 after battling leukemia.

The Andrew Wimer Memorial Scholarship was established in 2010. To date, over \$21,000 has been awarded to 18 students. Individuals applying must be a continuing student with at least a sophomore standing and a declared major in Accounting. Preference is given to students involved in extra-curricular activities at the University such as intramural athletics, Greek life, and/or professional organizations. The scholarship is available to all UW-P accounting students in good standing with a GPA above 2.8. Recipients must demonstrate financial need.

Because both the Boyd Spikerman Scholarship and the Andy Wimer Scholarship are endowed, both are awarded each year. If funds are available, the UW-P Foundation will award scholarships; the designated decision makers determine the number scholarships and the amount of each.

NEW SCHOLARSHIP: Sig Tau Gamma-Gamma Xi Scholarship Fund

The Sig Tau Scholarship Fund was established in 2025 as part of the 60th Reunion, to stand as a testament to the belief that investing in education and development of future leaders strengthens both the chapter and wider community. Applicants should demonstrate academic excellence, leadership within XI, and active engagement in the community. This new scholarship is designed for Junior and Senior actives with a GPA of 3.2 or higher.

For more information on these scholarships, please refer to <https://gammaxialumni.org/> (tab on Scholarships).

The information on the Scholarship Tab will be updated periodically as new information becomes available. In the future, a framed listing will be on display at the House for each Scholarship fund, detailing the scholarships for each year and the recipient(s).

REMINDER: Funds received from the Silent Auction, net dollars after 60th Reunion Banquet expenses are paid, and designated Alumni donations will go to these scholarships. Scholarship donation information for the Sig Tau Gamma-Gamma Xi Scholarship Fund will be sent out in the next few weeks. Please consider donating.