



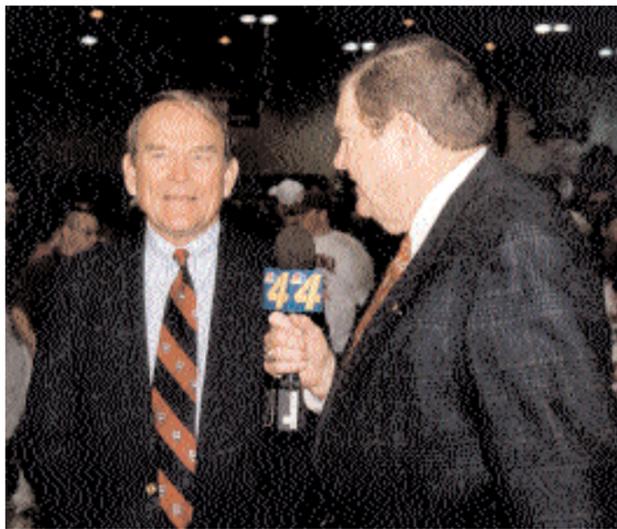
CELEBRATING
A CENTURY
OF SUCCESS

AGR's Centennial Convention

August 15-18, 2004
Columbus, OH

Coaching with Class

By Justin R. Lessman, Contributing Editor



Merv Johnson remembers his time with Alpha Gamma Rho fondly. Johnson was initiated at the University of Missouri, Theta chapter in 1955. (Photo courtesy OU Media Relations)

defines it as "steadfast adherence to a strict moral or ethical code."

Merv Johnson defines it. Period.

Johnson displayed it as an All-Big 7 tackle for the University of Missouri. He exhibited it as a 37-year assistant college football coach at Missouri, Arkansas, Notre Dame and Oklahoma. And he developed much of it in Alpha Gamma Rho.

really enjoyed doing those types of things."

The fact that he participated in various service activities during college is admirable. The fact that he did them while balancing honor-roll caliber grades, graduate school aspirations and college football obligations is downright impressive.

But Johnson dismisses any praise.

"I was glad to do it," he said. "Actually, I probably didn't get as active as I should have. But, football took some of that time up."

Apparently, Johnson made good use of that time.

As a Tiger, he was named an All-Big 7 tackle, a co-captain and Blue-Gray All-Star selection, an Academic All-Big 7 selection and the league's most Outstanding Student-Athlete of the Year.

(Continued on next page)

Integrity.

Webster defines it as "firm adherence to a code of values."

The American Heritage Dictionary

"Our chapter was really involved in service activities," the University of Missouri Theta chapter alumnus said from his Oklahoma office recently. "I

A Family Dairy Farm Yields Powerful Stock: A Family Affair

By Max E. Gregory (UT, 1958) and L. Patrick Scheetz (Purdue, 1964)



All four Harrison AGR men: Steve, Paul, Charles and John.

Evaleka Farm in Loudon, Tenn., is named for a Cherokee Indian maiden who ended her life on the farm, according to local legend. She loved a trapper who was traveling by canoe to meet her. He was killed on the way by a jealous Indian brave who laid in waiting high on the creek embankment which is now farm property. When Evaloka discovered the tragedy, she leaped into the creek and drowned.

Today, this farm with a colorful history is home to the Charles and Mary Harrison family.

Charles Harrison, father of the family, graduated from the University of Tennessee - Knoxville (UT) with a degree in dairy science in 1953. His wife, Mary, "Mom" to this exceptional family, received her degree in home economics from UT in 1952 and worked as an extension agent for UT in Loudon County. She taught home economics at Loudon High School from 1970 to 1980. They have four children and 12 grandchildren living within 35 miles of home.

Steve Harrison finished his degree from UT in animal science in 1980. John M. Harrison received his degree from UT in 1981 with a major in agriculture business. Their brother, C. Paul Harrison, majored in agriculture business as well and graduated in 1983. He received his law degree from UT in 1986. Their sister, Amy Harrison Hinton, majored in business and graduated in 1984. All the

Harrison men were members of Alpha Kappa Chapter of Alpha Gamma Rho at UT-Knoxville.

Steve runs a 650-cow dairy herd on two farms that were previously owned in partnership with his father. The herd averages 23,500 pounds and produces approximately 14 million pounds per year. There are 600 acres on the home farm.

In 1967, they bought a no-till corn planter, and since then, no-till planting and double cropping have been the methods used. They grow corn, soybeans, and wheat with no-till, since their fields are too steep for plowing.

There is quicker planting and less erosion with no-till, according to Steve, but no-till saves time, labor and soil nutrients too. He handles the unwanted Johnsongrass herbicides. In 1992, the Harrisons completed an extensive building program which included a new commodity shed, manure storage facility, feed barn, and shed for weaned calves.

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Convention

AGR in the News

Ag fraternity promotes learning, career goals

By Hembree Brandon, Delta Farm Press, Dec 12, 2003

Reprinted with permission of Delta Farm Press

OK, I have to confess that sometimes things slip through the cracks. (You, being far more efficient and organized than I, doubtless never have such a problem.)

So, herewith my attempt to correct one such slip: giving a plug to the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity.

In case you aren't familiar with AGR (and I confess I wasn't), it's the fraternity for agriculture students and professionals, with chapters at most U.S. land grant universities and thousands of members worldwide.

From secretaries of agriculture, to top agribusiness management, to presidents of food companies, to thousands of farmers and ranchers, AGR alumni are a virtual "Who's Who" in worldwide agriculture.

AGR isn't just for farm boys. Membership is open to those preparing for any agriculture or food-related career, including food science, biotechnology, agri-marketing, environmental science, landscape architecture, veterinary science, fisheries/wildlife, and many other agriculture, food, and fiber fields.

In the Mid-South, there are chapters at Mississippi State University; University

of Arkansas-Fayetteville and Arkansas State University-Jonesboro; University of Tennessee-Knoxville, UT-Martin, Middle Tennessee State University-Murfreesboro, and Austin-Peay State University, Clarksville, Tenn.; and Louisiana State University-Baton Rouge.

Bob Sayle, Lake Cormorant, Miss., called my attention to AGR. "This fraternity was a good influence on me," he says of the Mississippi State University chapter, "and I'd hate for others to miss out on it because they don't know about it. By providing stability and encouragement at a crucial time in my life, it helped me get through school and graduate."

"I was away from home, on my own for the first time, and the friendships, fellowship, and concern I found in AGR was comforting. Having a house mother and eating meals together helped form strong relationships. When people talked about an unsettled future for jobs in production agriculture, fraternity members helped me to keep focused on my goal. Holding leadership positions and attending national seminars exposed me to new ideas and helped to build personal skills."

AGR's mission is to keep members focused on why they're in college in the

first place — to graduate and get a job, which requires a dedication to academic achievement. "Because everyone in AGR is in the same sector, it's easy to have peer study groups or to find someone who has taken the same classes," Sayle says. Most chapters have computers and libraries to help provide a good atmosphere for studying and research. Since the Mississippi State chapter started in 1991, it has consistently been high in the overall fraternity scholarship rankings.

AGR will be observing its 100th anniversary in 2004, with special events planned at chapters nationwide, and a big national convention Aug. 15-18 in Columbus, Ohio.

The organization, through its educational foundation, offers scholarships and grants, and chapters carry out many charitable and/or community service projects each year. The Mississippi State University chapter, for example, will be holding a Spring Sensation Walking and Racking Horse Show at the new campus Agricenter next March.

"I hope every student in an ag-related field will look at AGR membership," Sayle says. ■

Delta AGR s in Florida



Sailors all! Those off for a cruise of Charlotte Harbor are Jan Waitt, Nancy Ward, Jan Harris, Justine Crume, Jayne Odle, Marsha Fredericks, Ted Priebe, Bernie Harris, Rose and Gerald Wilkins. Skipper John Lucas has his back to the camera at the controls.

Golf, boating, card games, food, and lots of talking filled the day when 47 Delta alumni and spouses gathered in Port Charlotte, FL., for the second time in two years.

John and Barbara Lucas hosted us this year at the Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club. John took a dozen sailors for an hour-long excursion.

Another "baker's dozen" played golf between brunch and dinner. A major accomplishment of that group was teaching Brother Phil Josephson how to play Purdue style golf. Dudley Williams took charge of that effort.

Phil Josephson from the AGR Home Office also attended and gave us an update on the national fraternity. He encouraged each of us to attend the National Convention August 15 - 18, 2004.

We look forward to a repeat of this event somewhere in Florida in 2005. ■

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Continued from front page...



(Photo courtesy OU Media Relations)

But all the while he was out tearing up the gridiron, he remained a loyal and active member of his beloved AGR. Born in King City, Mo., in 1936, Johnson was the first member of his family to go to college. It was on the campus of the University of Missouri in Columbia that he first entertained the notion of joining a fraternity.

"I grew up in the country and had a strong ag background," he said. "I got on campus and went through rush. I knew a couple guys going through the recruitment process and also really liked a bunch of the people they had on campus. It seemed like a good fit."

After graduation in 1958, Johnson served as a graduate assistant at Arkansas. For a time, he considered a future in veterinary science.

"I grew up on the farm and knew a lot about animals and enjoyed them very much," he said. "I took an interest in animal husbandry and veterinary science

and thought that might be the way to go."

Instead, the pigskin called him back. And he answered in grand fashion.

As assistant football coach at Arkansas and Notre Dame, Johnson was a part of two national championships.

"I certainly enjoyed my time in Notre Dame," Johnson said. "We won a national championship there after all. But when Barry Switzer asked me to come to Oklahoma, well, I jumped at it."

Switzer had long been an acquaintance of Johnson and his wife, and the chance to work with such a great football guy and a great football program appealed to him. Johnson was named the Sooner's assistant coach in 1978, a position he held for nearly 20 years.

"I grew up in the country and had a strong ag background...it seemed like a good fit."

-Merv Johnson, on why he joined AGR

In that time period, Johnson amassed a 150-67-5 record, a national championship, five Big 8 Conference titles and seven bowl game victories. Throw in the development of 19 All-Americans, and it's easy to see that Johnson was indeed

something special to the OU football program.

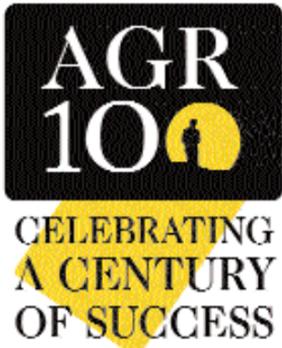
In 1998, he was named director of football operations at OU and special assistant to the athletic director, positions he currently holds.

"The job I'm in now affords me more of an opportunity to work with the student athletes," he said. "That's really the most enjoyable part of this job."

However, what brings out the more playful side of the long-tenured football coach is yet another of his many prestigious job titles — color man on the Sooner radio network.

"You know, that is the most fun I've had in this game," he said. "I really enjoy that and always look forward to it." Merv Johnson has excelled on the football field as both player and coach. He has been a leader and role-model to thousands of student athletes. He has racked up beyond-impressive accolades in the world of college football. And he has done so with integrity. Just recently, the Oklahoma chapter of the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame presented Johnson with its inaugural Integrity in Coaching Award. The honor, to be awarded annually to a coach best representing the highest standard of truth, honor, veracity and uprightness, is named for Johnson.

"It is a big honor for them to create an award in my name and perpetuate it," Johnson said. "You feel other people deserve it more than you. But, it's really gratifying to know that people perceive me as having integrity. That's really something special, and something that I'll hold onto for the rest of my life." ■



Once upon a time the music of Alpha Gamma Rho was an integral part of chapter life. It still is for a few chapters, but the traditions are slowly being lost. Brothers once submitted new songs and music in competition at National Conventions for a box of cigars, and the pride of knowing that their song would be added to the official songbook. Perhaps we have become the complacent victims of easily accessible electronic music and gadgetry. Maybe fraternity music is becoming a lost art like butchering or molasses making. Whatever the reasons, you have an opportunity to make history at the 2004 convention and have a lot of fun in the process. This notice is the first call to join the men's centennial choir that will perform at the convention in Columbus, Ohio.

Centennial Choir-First

Gerry Smith, a professional choir director, has been hired to lead this effort and other volunteers will help with instrumentation, sound systems (recording) and sheet music. Aside from having fun, entertaining the convention, and resurrecting some oldies, the choir will demonstrate how AGR music sounds when performed well. The obligations of any brother desiring to sing with the choir are simple: (1) let Kevin Barnes know of your interest as explained below, (2) attend the convention and come one day early, and (3) memorize some songs. Gerry Smith can help average voices sound good and experienced voices sound great!

If you have never attended a convention before, but like to sing, this is your opportunity to contribute to Alpha Gamma Rho. If you are an undergraduate brother with musical talent or interest, there is no better time than the 2004 Centennial Convention to join a band of brothers in song. Just picture yourself in a group of 50 or more brothers rising spontaneously at your respective banquet tables and belting out "Here's to Alpha Gamma Rho" or joining in mass to sing "Dream Girl of Alpha Gamma Rho." ■

Count me in! I would like to participate in the men's choir during the National Alpha Gamma Rho Centennial Convention, August 14-18, 2004, in Columbus.

Name _____
 Phone _____
 Email _____
 Address _____

Send to Kevin Barnes at AGR, 10101 N. Ambassador Drive, Kansas City, MO 64153-1395 or phone him at 816-891-9200 ext. 19 or email him at Kevin@AlphaGammaRho.org

Bernie Staller to Retire from the National FFA Organization



Bernie Staller, Wisconsin - Madison, announced that he will retire in the fall of 2004 after serving 13 years as chief operation officer of the National FFA Organization and National FFA Foundation. Staller has devoted 37 years to agricultural education, 13 of them with the FFA organization and 27 with the FFA Foundation.

"The timing for this decision feels right," said Staller. "The National FFA Organization is fiscally sound, FFA membership is at a 19-year high, our operations are fully staffed and we have exciting developments on the horizon. I can't imagine a better time to look forward than during the diamond anniversary of the organization."

Grand President Award Winners Named



Merle G. Flowers,
Auburn

Originally from Camden, Tennessee, Merle Flowers received a B.S. in Agricultural Business and Economics from Auburn University in 1991. He went on to earn his Master of Business Education (MBA) degree from the University of Mississippi in 1995.

Merle served as District Manager for United States Congressman Roger Wicker of Mississippi from 1997-2003. He managed congressional operations for 24 counties within the First Congressional District and maintained an office in DeSoto county.

He was elected as a Republican member of the Mississippi Senate on November 4, 2003. He represents the 19th District of Mississippi, comprised of DeSoto County. Merle was also selected to serve as a member of Governor-Elect Haley Barbour's Executive Transition Team.

He serves on the Board of Directors for the Southaven Chamber of Commerce and on the Board of Director for the Phoenix Club, a civic organization dedicated to supporting the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Mid-South. He and his wife, Stacey, reside in Southaven and have two children, Sarah Ann and Jackson. ■



Doug Griffin
Purdue

Mr. Griffin is originally from a Central Indiana Grain and Livestock farm. He attended Purdue University and obtained a degree in Agricultural Engineering. Upon receiving his degree in 1990, he began working for Caterpillar, Inc. Although Caterpillar is more known for its construction equipment, he began working the agricultural products marketing area. During his tenure at Caterpillar he served in various sales and marketing assignments throughout North America for the Challenger Track Tractor.

In 2002, AGCO acquired the Challenger line of equipment from Caterpillar. At that time, Doug chose to continue his work with the Challenger product and go to work for AGCO Corporation. He now serves as the North American Director of Sales and Marketing for Challenger. In this role, he oversees the marketing of five product lines of Challenger equipment as well as a complete company sales organization covering the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Doug and his wife, Renee, reside in Cumming, Georgia, and have three children, ages seven, four and one. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with his family, traveling and woodworking. He is a member of the United Methodist Church. ■



David Reis
Illinois

Mr. Reis attended the University of Illinois and obtained a B.S. from the College of Agriculture. In 1990 he took over his family farming operation and co-founded JC Co-op.

He has served on the Illinois Pork Producers Association's Board of Directors since 1999 and has been elected to serve as president and vice president/treasurer. He also served on the Illinois Pork PAC's Board of Directors and was selected as a delegate to the inaugural statewide Illinois Ag Assembly, which was hosted by the Illinois Department of Agriculture. In 2001, Mr. Reis was the recipient of the University of Illinois College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences Alumni Association's Outstanding Young Alumni Award recognizing outstanding alumni, under the age of forty.

David and his wife Maria reside in Willow Hill, Illinois, with their two children, Nicholas and Adriana. David is involved with the Jasper County Chamber of Commerce, Illinois Pork Producers Association, National Rifle Association, Sons of the American Legion, Jasper County Farm Bureau and his a member of St. Mary's of the Assumption Catholic Church, Ste. Marie, Illinois. ■

Staller began his career as an agribusiness instructor and FFA advisor at Janesville-Parker High School in Janesville, WA., where he taught for 11 years. During that time, enrollment in his agricultural education program grew from 40 to nearly 500 students, and the faculty expanded from one to five instructors. Staller next joined the National FFA Foundation in Madison, WA, as assistant executive director in July 1977, and was subsequently named executive director April 1, 1979. He assumed responsibilities as chief operating officer for both the National FFA Organization and the National FFA Foundation, March 19, 1991.

During his tenure as chief operating officer, Staller guided the National FFA Organization through structural changes, helped end a 15-year decline in national FFA membership and stabilized the organization's financial standing. He also reorganized and streamlined national FFA staffing and operations while increasing efficiency and broadening the range of services provided to state FFA associations and local chapters.

Staller managed the successful relocation of national FFA business operations and staff from Alexandria, VA, to Indianapolis in 1998. In 1999, Staller oversaw the relocation of the national FFA convention to Louisville, KY, after the 51,000-person gathering outgrew its location in Kansas City, MO. These accomplishments led to fiscal savings and increased service levels for FFA members, teachers and state associations.

Following his retirement this fall, Staller and his wife will relocate to southern Wisconsin to be closer to family and friends. His plans include devoting more time to his passions of gardening, fishing, gourmet French cooking and building fine Shaker furniture in his workshop. ■

Attention AGR Alums and Families:

Help your National Fraternity and have a fun experience: host a chapter service representative to stay in your home or come for a meal or both during his visit to the chapter in your university town. E-mail Penny at AGR@AlphaGammaRho.org or call at (816) 891-9200, ext 12, to obtain details and schedules. All participants will be recognized in a later issue of SICKLE & SHEAF.

Auburn Alumnus Writes Award

Dr. Jere Hoar, Auburn, is the author of *The Hit*, a noir crime novel which has been selected a notable book of 2003 by the Kansas City Star and nominated by the editors of *Deadly Pleasures* magazine for the Barry Award as best first crime novel of the year.

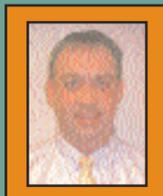
Dr. Hoar is professor emeritus of journalism at the University of Mississippi, where he received the university-wide teacher of the year award and the Silver Em, a national honor for those who have made significant contributions to journalism. He has previously received awards for short fiction, including the Pirate's Alley William Faulkner prize and the Kansas Arts Council's KQ award. His unpublished novel, "The Levitation and Ascension of Brother Wevel Snopes," was first prize winner in the Deep South Writers Conference Competition. ■

Beta Mu Chapter initiates Honorary Member

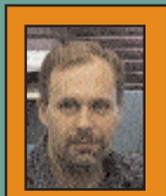
Born in 1933, Jack Caldwell was raised on a farm in White Bluff. The family row cropped, grew tobacco as a cash crop and raised swine. When Caldwell was seventeen he enlisted in the United States Air Force. After twenty-two years of service to his country, he retired from the military. Following his retirement, he returned to Tennessee and enrolled at Austin Peay State University in 1973. While at APSU, Caldwell received a B.S. in General Agriculture and a minor in chemistry. He then went on to graduate school at the University of Clemson in South Carolina, receiving his M.S. and Ph.D.

After receiving his Ph.D. in 1984, Caldwell took a job with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in Washington DC. In 2001, Caldwell retired from the FDA and again moved back to Tennessee. He started teaching animal science classes in the Agriculture Department at Austin Peay. During the spring 2003 semester, he became an adviser for Beta Mu chapter. Caldwell was initiated on September 28, 2003. He currently lives in Dickson, Tennessee with his wife of forty-five years, Mary Ann. ■

ON THE MOVE ON THE ON THE MOVE ON



*Christopher
Pierce
Southern Illinois*



*Greg Stacey
Wisconsin -
Madison*

Christopher M.F. Pierce, Ph.D., Southern Illinois, graduated with his Ph.D. in Entomology on December 21, 2003 from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. His doctoral dissertation specialized in Integrated Pest Management of agriculture and horticulture crops. He was hired by the Department of Entomology at Purdue University as the Indiana CAPS (Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey) State Coordinator. He and his wife, Kelly, are expecting the birth of their first child in May of 2004.

Greg Stacey, Wisconsin-Madison, has recently received certification as a Six Sigma Master Black Belt. He is currently employed as the Asst. Director of Continuous Process Improvement for Temple-Inland's sixteen panel products facilities. Temple-Inland, Inc. is a \$3.5 billion forest products and financial services company. Six Sigma is a process improvement methodology that was made popular by Motorola and General Electric. It uses high powered statistical tools to improve processes and products with substantial bottom-line results. Greg will be responsible for training, mentoring and leading projects as well as the corporate wide Six Sigma deployment.

Ronnie Green, Virginia Tech, currently leads the national research program for USDA's Ag Research Service in food and animal production. This program encompasses 91 scientists working in over 100 research projects at 17 federal labs across the U.S. in dairy, beef, sheep, swine and poultry production.

J. Christian Robertson, Auburn, had a daughter, Elizabeth Ann, on February 19, 2004. She weighed 8lbs 5oz.

David Roney, Kansas State, recently accepted the position of Plant Engineer with the Juice Division of Grimmway Enterprises Inc., Bakersfield, CA. David and wife Deborah have their two youngest daughters still at home, Andrea 14 and Joahna age 9.

Douglas Roney, Kansas State, recently moved from Minneapolis, Minnesota to Auburn, California, as the Northwest U.S. and Western Canadian Sales Engineering Manager for Buhler Inc. USA. Douglas and his wife Jenni have three sons, Dylan 5, Reed 3, and Grant age 1-1/2.

Bradley Jenne, Vermont, was married on October 18, 2003, to Blanca Kalandros and purchased Robert and Lucille Williams Christmas Tree farm (13.6 acres) and a house.

Rocky Gilbert, Idaho, was promoted to the Superintendent position of the Helena Interagency Hotshot Crew on the Helena National Forest, in Helena, Montana. This is one of seventy-eight, 20-person, federal crews, in the country that respond to wildfires across the nation.

John McComb, Clemson, is a LTC in the US Army, Stationed in Heidelberg, Germany. He is currently assigned as the 26th Area Support Group Director of Public Works. He arrived in Germany in July 2002 and expects to move in June 2005 to another duty assignment. He currently lives in Schwetzingen, Germany with his wife and four children.

Jeff Jarrett, Purdue, and his wife of 16 years, Christine, have six children and reside in Washington, IN. He has recently joined Preferred Buyers Association, Inc., a fertilizer purchasing, consulting and management firm as executive vice president, sales and marketing. Formerly, he spent 14 years with Monsanto as a retail sales manager.

Kyle McGregor, Tarleton State, recently received his Ph.D. and is a professor at Tarleton State University. He and his wife Jennifer also just had his first child, a daughter, Maggie.

Willard Waldo and Max Waldo, Nebraska, were recipients of the Rural Radio Association's 17th Service to Agriculture Award presented in Lexington, Nebraska, in November.

Larry Gerdes and Steve Gerdes, Illinois, were Award of Merit recipients from the ACES Alumni Association. These outstanding graduates will be honored during the Paul A. Funk College of ACES Awards Gala on April 28.

Doyle S. Speer, Truman State, and his wife purchased Trimble Funeral Home in July of 2003 in Aledo, Illinois and renamed it Speer Funeral Home. They are currently building a 6700 sq ft. facility to be opened in the spring of 2004.

Steven Thornton, New Mexico State, started as a contractor on his own in January 2004. He is the owner and driver for the #51 Southwest Super Truck at the Southern New Mexico Speedway and El Paso Speedway Park. He was the Rookie of the Year in the supertruck class in 2002. He is the owner and operator of www.jollyrogeriron.com.

Mark Johnson, Nebraska, is beginning his 4th year with Cargill in Ravenna, Nebraska, as a Farm Marketer, helping farmers with grain marketing and also providing variable rate fertilizer and seed inputs.

Chuck Rackerby, California State - Chico, recently was promoted to estimator at North Bay Construction, which is a general engineering contractor, in Petaluma, CA. He has also been part of the GPS program.

Bernie Staller, Wisconsin - Madison, has been selected Agribusiness Leader of the Year for 2004 by the National Agri-Marketing Association. In addition to honoring Bernie, the award provides important recognition of the value placed on FFA and agricultural education by the agribusiness community.

Max Armstrong, Wisconsin - Madison, was honored by the Purdue University Agricultural Alumni Association on Feb. 7 during its annual Purdue Ag Alumni Fish Fry for significant contributions to their profession, agriculture and to society. Armstrong is one of the most widely recognized agricultural radio and television journalists in America. He co-hosts the "U.S. Farm Report" weekly television broadcast and for 26 years was heard daily across the Midwest on WGN Radio's "Noon Show."

Henry "Hank" A. Wadsworth, Cornell, was honored by the Purdue University Agricultural Alumni Association on Feb. 7 during its annual Purdue Ag Alumni Fish Fry for significant

MOVING? CHANGING JOBS? RECEIVING AWARDS?

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Finstad elected as Minnesota Representative



University of Minnesota alumnus, Brad Finstad, was recently elected to the Minnesota House of Representatives.

Brother Finstad was initiated at Lambda chapter in 1995 and graduated with a BS in Agricultural Education in 1999.

He is currently serving on Agriculture and Rural Development Finance; Agriculture Policy; Health and Human Services Finance; Health and Human Services Policy committees.

He and his wife Jaclyn have one daughter, Greta. ■

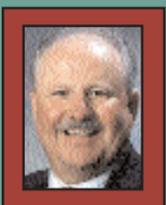
ON THE MOVE

contributions to their profession, agriculture and to society. Wadsworth was in Purdue's agricultural economics department for 11 years and then left to serve at Cornell University and Oregon State University

Robert Volk, Nebraska, was elected Trustee of the American Simmental Association. Volk represents the membership in Iowa, Kansas, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota and Canada. In 2003, Nebraska Governor, Johanns, appointed Volk to the Nebraska State Racing Commission. The commission oversees thoroughbred Quarterhorse racing in Nebraska. Both jobs are three year terms.

Tyson Ochsner, Oklahoma State, completed his Ph.D. in soil science at Iowa State University in August 2003. He now works as a research scientist for the Agricultural Research Service at the St. Paul Campus of the University of Minnesota. He lives with his wife Stephanie and daughter Audrey (2 1/2) in Hastings, MN.

Jay Brown, Illinois, started Pro Brands, LLC, a "company owned by veterinarians" which sells unique animal health products exclusively through practicing veterinarians. This Manufacturer's Representative Company is also developing its own brand line of products under the trademark VETERINARIAN's Rx™ and recently formed a joint venture to bring a unique, web-based communication product to U.S. veterinarians.



Jay Brown
Illinois



Earl Bowerman
Cal State - Fresno

Earl Bowerman, California State - Fresno, is a Republican candidate for U.S. Senate from Oregon. His web site address is <http://www.bowerman4senate.com/>.

Hoffsis to Depart for Iams

By Robbie Zaremborg
Reprinted with permission from The Lantern

Dr. Glen F. Hoffsis, Ohio State, will begin his position as the director of veterinary services at the Iams Company in Dayton, Ohio, and will leave his position after 34 years. He became the dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine in 1993, after he was an instructor at the school for 23 years, since 1970.

"Dr. Hoffsis is very well respected in the veterinarian community, and he will bring a lot to our business," said Kurt Iverson, a spokesman for the Iams Company.

The company supplies high quality pet foods and pet care products and collaborates with veterinarians to help make the lives of dogs and cats better, Iverson said.

"I have a great deal of respect for the Iams Company and have had for some time," Hoffsis said. "They have exciting ideas for the future."

However, Hoffsis added that it would be hard to leave the OSU community.

Hoffsis helped realign the College of Veterinary Medicine into three departments and planned the creation of three buildings. He also produced a new budget for the college.

There have been more than 3,500 graduates of the OSU veterinarian school under Hoffsis' tenure at OSU as a teacher and dean.

At the Iams Company, Hoffsis will oversee the company's Veterinary Technical Services team along with the company's undertakings, imaging centers and pet insurance. He also will be in control of arranging the company's products and services with the veterinarian profession.

Despite his decision to leave, Hoffsis said he has enjoyed his time spent at the university.

"It was a 10-year period of tremendous activity and advancement in the college," he said. "(It was) the best job I ever had." ■

E.T. York Awarded Honorary Doctorate



E.T. York, center, chancellor emeritus of Florida's state university system, and his wife **Vam**, right participated in the December 2003 graduation ceremonies at North Carolina State University in Raleigh. NCSU Chancellor **Marye Anne Fox**, left, presented York with an honorary doctor of sciences degree at the ceremony. (NCSU photo by Roger Winstead)

E.T. York, Auburn, chancellor emeritus of Florida State University system, has been awarded an honorary Doctor of Sciences degree by North Carolina State University.

In awarding the degree at the university's December 17, 2003, graduation ceremonies, NCSU chancellor Marye Anne Fox cited York's more than half-century of efforts to combat world hunger.

"After a career spanning more than 50 years, York is admired worldwide as an innovative educator, tireless humanitarian, and an effective advocate for the use of international agricultural development as a weapon against hunger and malnutrition," said Fox.

York became the University of Florida's provost for agriculture in 1963, and later

went on to become the university's executive vice president and interim president. In 1975, he left UF for a five-year term as chancellor of the state university system. He retired early to devote himself full-time to working on problems of Third World development.

Throughout that time, York built a reputation as a champion in the effort to modernize agriculture in developing countries as a means of ending world hunger. He served as an advisor to six presidents – Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter and Reagan – and has served as a consultant for the U.S. Agency for International Development, the U.S. Department of State, the United Nations, private foundations and many foreign governments. ■

Tarleton State Alumnus Receives Houston Fire Department Meritorious



Jason "Bear" Wilson, Tarleton State, was awarded the Houston Fire Department Meritorious Medal.

On Saturday, January 4, 2003, he was among the crew that rescued a husband and wife who

were trapped under a patio cover. It collapsed while they were dismantling it. The heavy patio, made out of two by six inch treated lumber and covered with tar and gravel, weighed in excess of 2,000 pounds.

Both victims were extricated safely and treated for possible spinal injuries at the local hospital.

The entire crew was commended for their determination and dedication. ■

Laatsch accepts Outstanding Agriculture Education Award

By Pam Chickering Wilson, Union staff writer
Printed with permission from Daily Jefferson County Union



NATIONAL HONOR - David R. Laatsch recently was presented the Outstanding Agriculture Education Program Award

David R. Laatsch, Wisconsin, Madison, accepted the Outstanding Agriculture Education Program Award in December in Orlando, Fla., at the National Convention of the National Association of Agriculture Educators.

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime honor, to be recognized by one's peers like this," Laatsch said Thursday in a telephone interview from his Beaver Dam classroom. "I am humbled and honored by this recognition."

Laatsch has been teaching at Beaver Dam High School ever since he graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1976.

Agriculture has changed a great deal in the near-three decades Laatsch has been teaching the subject, and so has the field of education as a whole.

"That's one of the reasons I think I've kept teaching," he said. "It changes all of the time, and each and every year I face new and different challenges - kind of like farming." ■

Brothers Serve the United States



Our thoughts and prayers are with these young men as they serve our country and all Americans.

Larry Torrey, University of Maine
Benjamin Daniels, Ohio State
Brad Guse, Wisconsin - River Falls
Mark Chilson, Wisconsin - River Falls
John McComb, Clemson
Mark Ruhlig, Michigan State
Kaleb Kromann, Minnesota
Peter A. Lehning, Cornell
Mike Naylor, Penn State
Jared Peters, New Hampshire
Nicholas Rivera- Western Illinois
Aaron Bryant- Western Illinois
Chris Saylor- Western Illinois University
Van Malter, Missouri
Brian Warnock, Florida
Charles C. Jones, Virginia Tech

In the last issue of *SICKLE & SHEAF*, we asked Brothers who were serving in the military to send in their name and chapter to be printed in the Spring issue of *SICKLE & SHEAF*.

The following brother's names were sent in to the Home Office. We encourage any brothers who have not been listed in these lists to please send an email to Becky@AlphaGammaRho.org with the Brother's name and name of his chapter.

Dairy Family...continued from Page 1



storage facility, feed barn, and shed for weaned calves. By summer 2004, a new dairy facility will be finished, which will permit consolidation of the dairy production on one farm with housing for the cows, feed storage and milking parlor.

Steve and his wife, Beverly, have three children: Mark (16), Robert "Bo" (14), and Rebecca (12). Beverly is a homemaker, formerly an elementary school teacher, and currently farm business manager. She has a degree from East Tenn. State.

John is owner of Sweetwater Valley Dairy Farms. On this 1200 acre farm, he has a dairy and a cheese processing facility. He is a sixth-generation dairy farmer and Loudon County (Tenn.) native. On his farm, 850 Holstein cows are milked three times each day. This is 365 days per year, bad weather and good, including Christmas and holidays. There are no days off.

With his dairy animals and the offspring from his dairy herd, he has around 2,200 head of cattle. This included 500 steers of mixed breeds that he raises for meat, and 80 cows in his beef herd. At his dairy farm and cheese facility, he has a little more than 20 employees. His land

is used for growing corn silage, hay and pasture.

His Sweetwater Valley cheese is found in the fancy dairy cases at local Kroger and Fresh Market stores in locations throughout Tennessee, Kentucky and Virginia. Many wineries purchase and sell his cheese.

John and his wife, Celia, have five children: Mary (12), Sally (9), John (7), Charles (5) and Amy (3). Celia is an emergency room physician at Sweetwater Hospital.

Paul is a prominent lawyer in Knoxville and a partner in the law firm of Long, Ragsdale & Waters. His legal practice represents businessmen and women in both real estate transactions and disputes. In addition to his law practice, he has a range of investments and business ventures centered around real estate and commercial properties.

Paul's background on the farm taught him that hands-on experiences come in handy in more ways than you might think. The farm taught him to deal with all types of people, to read and understand others, to handle difficult situations, to develop persistence and stay the course, to be resourceful, by necessity to be frugal, to maintain a good work ethic, and the importance of team efforts and individual endeavors.

Paul and his wife, Melissa, have two children: Blaine (8) and George (11). Melissa is a homemaker and graduate of Centre College in Kentucky. In addition to his professional duties, Paul serves on the Alumni Board and as Legal Advisor for Alpha Kappa Chapter.

Amy was in retail and bank management in Nashville and Knoxville. Then she became a pharmaceutical sales represen-

tative for a time and then a Regional Account Manager for Becton Dickinson Consumer Products in the southeast. Amy and her husband, Robert, a lawyer and UT graduate, have two children: Mary Grace (5) and Granville (2 1/2). Amy is busy as a homemaker now.

In 1971, illness threatened to end the family dairy farm for Charles and Mary. A blood clot developed in one leg of Charles and his doctor advised him to begin liquidating his Holstein dairy herd without delay. Charles did not like the flavor of this drastic action. He had built the family dairy operation with his father over many years.

His sons, then 13, 12, and 10 went into the farm milking parlor and began working with hired help to continue the farm operations. According to Charles and Mary, that incident played a key role in

the decisions of their sons to stay on the family farm. Obviously, Charles recovered nicely from the blood clot.

Joe Harrison, younger brother to Charles, is also a member of Alpha Kappa and is very dedicated to AGR today. He has moved back to Tenn. after retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel from the United States Air Force. He served as a navigator on B-52 Stratofortress bombers.

Dr. Max Gregory, UT, 1952, who was an AGR brother with Charles, says, "We are very proud of the Harrison family and their contributions to the success of the Alpha Kappa Chapter. This family has given generously of their talents as well as their resources, and we all, undergraduates and alumni, appreciate their accomplishments." ■



The entire Harrison family: Front row: George, Sally, Mary, Charles, Mary, Rebecca; second row: Blaine, Melissa, John, Celia, Amy Elizabeth, Mary, Amy, Granville, Robert; third row (standing): Paul, John, Charles, Robert, Beverly, Steve and Mark.

Transitions

The following deaths were reported to the Home Office since the last publication. The year listed is the year of initiation.

Auburn
Mabry H. Huggins, 1936

Cal Poly
Donald L. Moore, 1930

California - Davis
Luther J. Moore, 1948

Colorado State
Arnold W. Lefler, 1932
Lyle C. Campbell, 1973

Connecticut
Newton R. Potter, 1931
Bruce Seger, 1960

Cornell
James C. Earl, 1941

Florida
Otis Bell, 1938
Robert N. Adams, 1954

Georgia
Harold D. White, 1930
Edward D. Lacey, 1933

Illinois
Harold Wright, 1931
Wilber W. Reid, 1933
Paul E. Lamb, 1968

Iowa State
Ralph G. Chism, 1927
John Neil Chicken, 1930
Benjamin S. Pomeroy, 1930
Paul W. Elam, 1939
John L. Morris, 1943

Kansas State
Manford Mansfield, 1939
Glenn E. Neis, 1952
Bobby Heitschmidt, 1953
James P. Buchele, 1960

Kentucky
Charles Berckman, 1946
James W. McDowell, 1962

Maine
Bruce H. Platt, 1958

Maryland
Elmer J. Heubeck, 1936

Michigan State
Francis W. Brokaw, 1935
George Crenshaw, 1947
George R. Stover, 1959
Franklin M. Arndt, 1982

Missouri
Robert C. Appleman, 1928
Howard P. Brown, 1936
Harold Reese, 1940
Prestley C. Thomas, 1949
William Davis Jr., 1953
Charles Crowley, 1955
Justin L. McBee, 2003

Minnesota
Keith C. Barrons, 1930
Donald Sonstegard, 1939
Albert Flesland, 1940
Robert M. Jordan, 1940
Donald Hasbargen, 1946
John E. Sallstrom, 1948
Wayne C. Erickson, 1963
Craig Sallstrom, 1972

Nebraska
Orrin Marcy, 1936
Donald A. Crosier, 1938
Charles H. Adams, 1956

New Hampshire
Scott C. Keenan, 1977

North Dakota State
Dayton B. Byram, 1935
Harry R. Johnson, 1937
Walter E. Nystuen, 1948

Ohio State
Kenneth Rice, 1932
Thomas Pottenger, 1938
Lon E. Cromley, 1958

Oklahoma State
Robert Williams, 1936
Gordon L. Elsener, 1947

Penn State
William C. Bramble, 1926
Robert F. White, 1932
Bob M. Brock, 1932
Leland H. Bull, 1946

Purdue
Robert J. Rodibaugh, 1948
Lee F. Moffett, 1950
John D. Hardin, Sr., 2003

Rutgers
Daniel Unger, 1953

Southern Illinois
Robert P. Rathmacher, 1970

South Dakota State
Larry D. Nelson, 1964

Vermont
Joseph Bornstein, 1969

Virginia Tech
William Shields, 1976

Washington State
Walter J. Robinson, 1929
Martin G. Wall, 1931
Kenneth McCallister, 1933

West Virginia
Robert E. Via, 1924
Clifford Bucklew, 1949

Western Illinois
Dean A. Grob, 1968

Wisconsin - Madison
John L. Johnson, 1938
James G. Caterina, 1939
Wilfred L. Phillipson, 1941
Richard L. McNall, 1947
Elroy J. Lueder, 1950

Order Form

"The First One Hundred Years of Alpha Gamma Rho"

Price: \$39.95
 Shipping: \$6.00
 Total: \$45.95

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_____	_____
_____	_____

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 Total: _____

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Address _____

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Method of Payment

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 Visa _____
 Mastercard _____

Credit Card # _____ Exp. date _____

Signature _____

Please mail payments to:

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 10101 N Ambassador Drive
 Kansas City, MO 64153

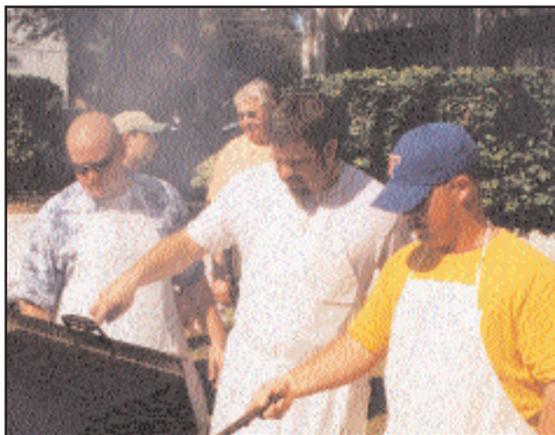
THE FIRST ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF ALPHA GAMMA RHO



History never looks like history when you are living through it.

John W. Gardner

New Colony Installed at Florida Southern College



Members prepare burgers for FFA Regional citrus judging contest in Lakeland, Florida.

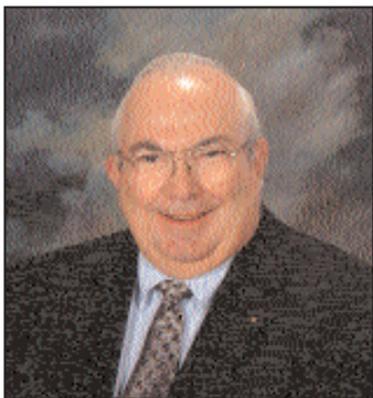
On March 30, 2004, members of the Alpha Gamma Chapter from the University of Florida made the short trip south to Lakeland, Florida to install a new AGR colony at Florida Southern College. Twenty young men and one faculty member that will serve as an adviser were initiated into the colony on that evening in front of the resounding approval and support of many area AGR

alumni. The installation was a big step for the young men who have been working extremely hard the last few semesters to meet the requirements to be an AGR Colony.

Although a young group, the members are extremely motivated and involved. They have participated in AGR Recruitment School the last two years and sent 10 members to the Pittsburgh Leadership Seminar this past March. There will also be good representation at the 100th Anniversary Convention in August. The group has been heavily involved on their campus in many ways including an annual rose sale, and providing lunch for members of the FFA that are on the campus for contests.

There are two men that are serving in an adviser role for the colony. Mr. Tim Hurner, an Alpha Gamma initiate and professor at the college has been instrumental in bringing AGR to Florida Southern and offering guidance to the fledgling group as adviser. Dr. Malcolm Manners was initiated into the colony with the undergrads and is also on the faculty at the college teaching citrus and horticulture. ■

Dr. Robert Oehrtman to celebrate 25 years as ATP Adviser



Dr. Robert L. Oehrtman, affectionately known as "Dr. O", will celebrate his 25th year as Adviser of Pi Chapter of the Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity at Oklahoma State University this May 1. This distinction makes him the longest tenured Adviser ever at Pi Chapter and with the National Fraternity.

Dr. O was born on July 24, 1939 and went to High School in Greenville, Ohio at Greenville High. He was initiated in 1958 with 11 other Brothers at The Ohio State University, Beta Chapter, as initiate 689. He began his service to Pi Chapter by becoming its Faculty Adviser in April of 1979. Since then, he has attended every National Convention since 1980 and every Training Conference since 1979, except three. Dr. O is an Adviser Forum Graduate, Vanguard Volunteer Presenter, and has served as co-chair of numerous convention committees. In 1983, he was awarded the National ATP Outstanding Adviser Award and had a repeat performance in 2000 at the National

Convention in Savannah, Georgia, and again at the 2002 convention in Minnesota. He is the only Adviser to win the award three times, and the only Adviser to win the award back-to-back. He was awarded the Outstanding ATP Alumni Award for Pi Chapter in 1986 and the first floor conference room of the fraternity house is dedicated in his honor. Recently, Dr. Oehrtman was honored as Outstanding Student Organization Adviser for 2003 and the Outstanding Greek Adviser for 2003 on the campus of Oklahoma State University and has been recognized as a Brother of the Century within the National ATP Fraternity.

Dr. O is also a staple of the Stillwater and OSU communities. In February of 1970 he started his career of teaching and research in Agricultural Economics at OSU. Since then, he is said to have received more awards of recognition from students, student organizations and youth organizations than any other teacher at Oklahoma State. He has served as Scoutmaster for Troop 814 since 1981 and has received the District Award of Merit. He is active in the First Christian Church of Stillwater where he serves as an Elder and he is a member of the Masonic Lodge.

A reception is being held on his honor at the ATP Fraternity House, 224 South Washington in Stillwater, OK on May 1, 2004, from 2 to 4 pm. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend. ■

Jones running for California Senate Seat



Left to right: Mark Linder - Iowa State Agriculture Campaign Director; Bill Jones for US Senate; Bill Jones, Fresno State, US Senate Candidate from California; Former US Senator and California Governor, Pete Wilson.

Bill Jones, Cal State - Fresno and Mark Linder, Iowa State, have been working together recently towards the election of Bill to the United States Senate representing the state of California. Bill was elected on March 2 as the Republican candidate to run opposite of Democratic Sen. Barbara Boxer in November. Bill is a farmer, rancher and agribusiness leader in California.

He has served two terms as the California Secretary of State and served twelve years in the California State Assembly, representing his district in the Central Valley. In 1994, he received national acclaim as author of California's popular "Three Strikes and You're Out" law against repeat crime offenders. California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and former Governors

Pete Wilson and George Deukmejian are actively supporting Bill's campaign.

Mark Linder and Bill Jones are long time friends who have worked together on various projects in California. Mark is assisting Bill in opening doors with agricultural and business leaders throughout the U.S. for the Senate campaign. Mark is active in the management of his family's farm in Iowa and is a business development and marketing consultant based in Sacramento. He co-founded two national organizations, Agriculture in the Classroom and Project Food, Land & People, and worked with the California Farm Bureau for several years after graduating from Iowa State. To learn more about AGR Brother Bill Jones, you can visit his web site at www.jonesforcalifornia.com. ■



CELEBRATING
A CENTURY
OF SUCCESS

Columbus, Ohio
August 15-18, 2004

2004 National Convention Registration Form August 15-18, 2004

All fees must accompany this form unless you are the one prepaid delegate from your chapter (check box below). Fees are not refundable if notification of cancellation is received after July 24. Only individuals registered and badged may attend Convention events. Wives and guests must register to attend Convention events. Send completed form to AGR Home Office, 10101 North Ambassador Drive, Kansas City, MO 64153-1395, (816)-891-9200.

Name: _____ Name for nametag: _____

Chapter you are representing: _____ Leadership Position: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

_____ E-Mail: _____

For family registration only: Total registrants? _____ Wife's/Guest's Name: _____

Children's Name(s) & age(s): _____

Fees: Please check the appropriate boxes applying to you and/or your family. Attach a check in the appropriate amount, payable to Alpha Gamma Rho. If you are a delegate and your fee was paid previously by your Chapter, check this box:

Total	REGISTRATION FEES		Check one:		
	Before May 1	After May 1	Delegate	Alternate	Other
Collegiate	\$265	\$290	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alumni	\$285	\$310	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adviser	\$285	\$310	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Spouse/Housemother/Guest	\$200	\$200	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Daily Fee	\$75	\$75	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Children (no charge)					

Individual special event tickets may be purchased.

Registration includes all materials, meals and program events. This includes the Opening Gala and Reception/Dinner.

Pre- and post-Convention tours and other optional events are not included. **Registration Fee Total (amount enclosed)**

Room Rates (per day): single-\$99; double-\$99; triple-\$119; quad-\$139 (applicable August 15-18) **AGR does not handle room reservations.** Reservations are made by calling the Hilton Columbus (Hilton Columbus; 3900 Chagrin Drive; Columbus, OH 43219) at (614) 414-5000 and requesting the Alpha Gamma Rho group rate. Reservations must be received by July 22, 2004, and reservations will be honored after this date at a negotiated rate on a space-available basis only.

Transportation: Please make your own arrangements to Columbus, Ohio and to the hotel. Hotel and travel information will be sent to you upon the receipt of this form.

For Home Office Use

Form Received _____ Fees Due _____ Fees Received _____ Total Registrants _____

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Fraternity.

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2004

More information
available at
www.agrs.org

Dates To Remember

April 22-24	National Board Meetings Indianapolis, IN
June 25-26	Adviser Forum Kansas City, MO
August 15-18	National Convention Columbus, OH
September 10-11	Leadership Orientation Kansas City, MO

AGR Home Office Contact Information:

AGR Home Office (816) 891-9200
10101 N Ambassador Drive AGR@AlphaGammaRho.org
Kansas City, MO 64153 www.agrs.org



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