

# AGR SHEAF

# BETTER

# AGR

# 100

# YEARS

# OF

# SUCCESS

THE MAGAZINE OF  
ALPHA GAMMA RHO  
AGRICULTURE FRATERNITY

Winter 2005

## Strategic Planning Session Pays Off

Written By: Josh Wackler, Oregon State

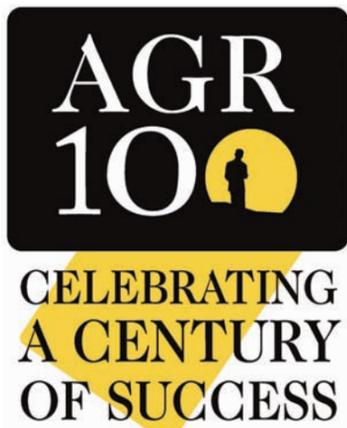
Three years ago this April the Alpha Beta Chapter became one of the first AGR chapters in the country to go through a strategic planning session. I can distinctly remember going into it with a bad attitude, and just wanting to get through one painful day without going crazy.

Well, three years later, I can look back and honestly say that the two days we spent at that session was probably the most beneficial thing we could have done for our chapter. Over that time, our chapter has seen a huge turnaround, going from practically shut down to winning the Sleeter Bull Award this past August.

I'm not saying that the planning session was the only reason for the turnaround. It took a lot of

blood, sweat and tears from our members to get where we are at today. But a big reason of why we have been so motivated was because of the session.

And you know what the best part is? IT'S FREE! The only cost to the chapter is finding a place to stay for the volunteer who flies in, and making sure he eats decent food while he's there. That's it. So contact your chapter's consultant and schedule a session as soon as you can, because it's more beneficial than you could ever imagine.



CONGRATULATIONS ON  
100 YEARS OF  
SUCCESS &  
CONTINUING TO MAKE  
BETTER MEN

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There are AGRs, who are noted in history  
Some must live with striking fame  
There are AGRs, with loads of money  
Some have less, perhaps lots less, only pennies to their name

Some live their life, with a great big splash  
Some are quiet, they make no waves  
Some will worry all the time  
Of some we say...He just behaves!

The point I raise is clear you see...  
AGRs are not alike; they are such a varied lot of men, with different talents each to give.  
We celebrate the men we know, we celebrate the men we knew,  
We celebrate, the brothers we cherish,  
Be they many, or be they few.

But there is a binding force we live with  
The one we hold down deep within  
It is the line we learned some time ago...  
We continue to work, "To Make Better Men."

Gary E. Jarmer, Kansas State  
September 1, 2004

# Alpha Rho Chapter Celebrates Founders Day & Initiates New Members

During Founder's Day activities at the Alpha Rho Chapter house on Saturday, April 17th, time was taken for a very solemn and serious occasion. Alpha Rho Chapter initiated John Meyer, CEO of Holstein Association USA, Inc., as their 540th brother.

John grew up in Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin. He is the son of Eugene Meyer, long time managing editor of Hoard's Dairyman Magazine. In his youth, John was active in both 4-H and FFA. He learned to appreciate agriculture by working on the Hoard's Dairyman Farm in Fort Atkinson and at the family farms of both his grandparents. John graduated from the University of Wisconsin at Eau-Claire with a major in busi-

ness and marketing. Meyer is Past President of the National Dairy Shrine, Vice President National Pedigree Livestock Council, Cooperator of the Brattleboro, Vermont Memorial Hospital, and member of the Brattleboro, Vermont Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

Before joining Holstein in July 2001, John was Executive Secretary at the Brown Swiss Cattle Association. John's first job out of college was as a sales representative for NASCO, his final position was Director of Marketing and Sales.

John's father, Eugene is an Iowa State AGR and an Eta Brother of The Century honoree. John's mother Maxine is an Iowa

State Kappa Delta. John's sister Marylynn is an Iowa State Pi Beta Phi. John's brother Bruce is a fifth grade teacher in Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin.

When asked what it means to be a Brother of Alpha Gamma Rho, John said "It is one of the most meaningful things that has happened to me in my lifetime." Growing up in an AGR household, John got to know how meaningful AGR was to his Father and through him and his career. "Some of the finest people I have met are members of AGR," John said. "I was humbled by the hospitality and warm reception I received from the Alpha Rho Brothers when I was initiated at the chapter house."

Brother Meyer resides in Brattleboro, Vermont with his wife of 10 years, Vicki, a graduate of Norwich University,



Northfield, Vermont. John looks forward to meeting other AGR's at the various agricultural events and functions he attends throughout the country.



## 2005 Adviser Forum

January 28 - 29 at the Kansas City Home Office

Alumni Presidents are also encouraged to attend!

Please Contact Kevin Barnes for more information

Phone: 816-891-9200 ext. 19

Email: [Kevin@AlphaGammaRho.org](mailto:Kevin@AlphaGammaRho.org)

## ALPHA GAMMA RHO AGRICULTURE

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## Alpha Phi Celebrates 40 Years of Success

On April 25th, 1964, a charter was granted to the nineteen existing members and seventeen new initiates of the Alpha Phi Colony of Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity, and the Alpha Phi Chapter was founded at South Dakota State University. In February, the chapter celebrated the first 40 years by making their 40th Anniversary celebration the focus of their 2004 Pink Rose banquet. The banquet was held in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Nearly 200 collegiate and alumni members along with their friends and families joined together to make what was possibly the largest gathering in Alpha Phi's history.

Joining the chapter for the evening was the former AGR Grand President, Mike Jackson. Jackson addressed those in attendance about AGR's rich tradition of excellence in agriculture and how Alpha Phi and AGR as a whole must recognize great accomplishments of the past and think big about the possibilities of the future. Along with hearing from

Jackson, a presentation was made regarding the remodeling project planned for the chapter house during the summer. A 40th Anniversary quilt was auctioned off (benefits going to the remodeling fund), chapter awards were given away. Following the banquet a dance was held, and of course many interesting stories and conversation took place throughout the night.

The 40th Anniversary Pink Rose Celebration was a grand occasion that represented the long lasting ties binding AGR members together. For these past forty years the Alpha Phi chapter has been striving "To make better men...", and with continuing work another 40 successful years are sure to come. The Alpha Phi Chapter extends a thank you to all those who attended and all who made the first 40 years a success.



# AGR'S Excel Into Leadership Positions at Universities

## Jack Britt New University of Tennessee Executive Vice President for Agriculture

Jack Britt, former University of Tennessee Vice President for Agriculture, is now the executive vice president for the university. Britt came to UT in July of 1998 as vice president for agriculture. Prior to that he was the associate dean for research and graduate programs in the college of veterinary medicine and assistant director of the North Carolina Agricultural Research Service at North Carolina State University. Jack earned his bachelor's degree

in agriculture and biology at Western Kentucky University and master's and doctoral degrees at N.C. State. Jack joined the Alpha Chi Chapter at Western Kentucky University in 1966.



## Brady Deaton Named Chancellor of the University of Missouri

Brady Deaton became Chancellor of the University of Missouri as of October 4. Deaton came to Columbia in 1989 as professor of agricultural economics, department chair and social science unit leader in the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources. He also served as chief of staff, deputy chancellor, provost and executive vice chancellor. Deaton serves as chair of the council on Academic

Affairs for the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges. Deaton joined the Omicron Chapter of AGR at the University of Kentucky in 1961.



## Jimmy Cheek Named University Senior V.P. for Agriculture and Natural Resources

Jimmy Cheek, dean of the University of Florida's College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, has been named the university's senior vice president for agricultural natural resources. Cheek begins the position on January 1.

Cheek will administer UF programs in food, agriculture, natural resources and life sciences. He will be the administrative head of the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, which encompasses the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station, the Florida Cooperative Extension Service, the School of Forest Resources and

Conservation, and elements of the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Cheek received his bachelor's and doctorate degrees in agricultural education from Texas A&M University in 1969 and 1975, respectively. He received his master's degree from Lamar University in 1972.

Jimmy joined the Alpha Gamma Chapter at the University of Florida in 1993.



## Gary Minish Appointed Dean

Gary Minish has been named Dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale. Minish has most recently served as professor of animal and poultry sciences at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. During Gary's 35-year tenure at VT he also served as assistant dean and director of resident instruction and the same for development and agriculture technology for the agricultural

college. Minish was the head of the animal and poultry sciences department from 1994 - 2001.

Gary joined the Eta Chapter of Iowa State University in 1959.



## Randy Woodson is New Dean of the College of Agriculture at Purdue

Randy Woodson, past interim dean of Purdue Agriculture and director of the Office of Agricultural Research Programs, is now dean for the Purdue College of Agriculture. Woodson has been a member of Purdue faculty since 1985; he has served as the head of Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture during this time. Randy was appointed interim dean of agriculture in June, succeeding Victor Lechtenberg. Woodson also was an assistant professor of horti

culture at Louisiana State University.

Woodson received a bachelor's degree in horticulture from the University of Arkansas, a master's degree in horticulture and a doctorate in horticulture/plant physiology from Cornell University.



## Fred Cholick is The New Dean at K-State

Fred Cholick is the new Dean for the College of Agriculture and Director for K-State Research and Extension, at Kansas State University. Cholick has worked at South Dakota State University since 1981. Cholick was project leader for spring wheat breeding and genetics, a professor in the plant science department and held various administrative positions. In 1998 he began his role as dean

of the College of Agriculture and Biological Sciences. Fred joined the Alpha Beta Chapter of AGR at Oregon State University in 1969.



**Do you have a 2004 Membership Directory yet?**

If not, please call Harris Publishing Company at 800-877-6554 to order your copy.

# Learn To Recruit BETTER

## 2005 AGR Recruitment Schools

**Purpose:** To develop a new recruitment plan or enhance the one already in place to assure that the chapter is getting all of the quality men they should on campus.

**Who should apply???** Anyone involved in recruiting for the chapter and who wants to make a difference. Some of our most successful recruiting chapters utilize their alumni and/or house-mother in the recruitment process.

**When & Where:** January 14-15 and March 18-19, 2005, at the Kansas City Airport Hilton, near the Home Office

- Receive personalized recruitment help
- Apply today due to limited space!

**For more information,** please contact Josh Terhune in the AGR Home Office at 816-891-9200, ext. 16, or [Josh@AlphaGammaRho.org](mailto:Josh@AlphaGammaRho.org)

### ~Corrections~

Jay Van Tress was wrongfully reported in the Transitions section of the SICKLE & SHEAF in the Fall issue. The home office is happy to report that he is alive and kicking! We apologize for this error.

## ON THE MOVE

**Bob Burton**, Georgia, owner of Flowers Inc. Balloons hosted 2004 Ballooniversity in July. Ballooniversity is all about the balloon and gift product business, a five-day conference that since 1984 has offered industry professionals courses in business, style and other techniques as well as a chance to socialize with fellow business owners. Flowers Inc. Balloons is the world's largest supplier of balloons and matching gift products.



Bob Burton  
Georgia

**John Demerly**, Purdue, is now the Assistant Director for Life Sciences Initiatives within the Office of Career and Technical Education. Demerly was previously the Executive Director of the Indiana FFA Association and advisor to the Indiana FFA State Convention. Demerly will remain active in determining and laying out a strategic plan for agricultural education within Indiana. His new duties will also include planning for Allied Health careers. John resides in Avon, Indiana with his wife, Laura, and three children Mitchell, Claire, and Luke.

**Jack Givens**, Oklahoma State, received the Oklahoma State University Alumni Association's 2004 Distinguished Alumni and International Alumni Award. The award is presented to alumni for professional achievement and community service. Jack was one of seven winners and was recognized at a public reception November 13, and during halftime of the OSU football game against Baylor.

Jack is President of Givens Farms Inc. He was also the President of Laughlin-Simmons & Co. of Texas Inc., a company involved in oil well elevations and surveying. Givens served in the OSU Advanced ROTC program and in WWII. He has been awarded the Bronze Star and Three Purple Hearts. Jack is married to Helen Jane and they reside in Mangum, Oklahoma.

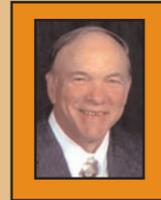


Jack Givens  
Oklahoma State

**Richard Godke**, Southern Illinois State, was appointed the County Agricultural Agent/Agriculture Department Director for Jacksonville, Florida on September 13th. Godke will be responsible for planning, developing, implementing, teaching and evaluating educational programs in general agriculture and natural resources and assisting with the 4-H/Youth Development Program. He will also oversee the Duval County Extension program and staff.

Godke served as a teacher associate for the North Kansas City Schools since 2003. He spent 11 years in university extension and an additional 11 years in agricultural-based industries in a wide range of positions. Godke earned his master's degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Godke began the position October 18.

**Charles Iager**, Maryland, and his brother Eugene, received the dairy industry's most prestigious award for Distinguished Dairy Cattle Breeder of the National Dairy Shrine in Madison, Wisconsin during the World Dairy Expo. Their farm was established in 1839 by Henry R. Iager and has been farmed continuously in the family. The registered Holstein herd begun in 1951, they milk 165 registered Holsteins. The family also farms more than 1,000 acres of corn, soybeans, wheat, barley and hay. They also raise 20,000 turkeys annually.



Charles Iager  
Maryland

**Edward Mather**, Iowa State, Deputy Director of the National Food Safety & Toxicology Center at Michigan State University. Along with other MSU colleagues, U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge, and USDA Secretary Ann Veneman are teaming together to formalize the creation of a National Center for Food Protection and Defense (NCFPD). An article announcing this and other key efforts being made by Mather and other Michigan State University staff, to help protect the integrity of our food supply was printed in the Fall 2004 MSU Alumni Magazine.

**Tom Meyer**, Southern Illinois, was awarded his fifth Merit Award by the Campbell Soup Company in September, which qualified him for the coveted Campbell Hall of Fame. Less than 1 percent of all Campbell employees earn a place in the Hall of Fame. Tom is married to Teresa and has three daughters, and is living in Columbia and is Territory Manager for Campbell Sales Company.

**Mike Miron**, Minnesota, received the University of Minnesota President's Student Leadership & Service Award on May 4th.

**Wilbur C. Mull**, Georgia, competed in the 16th annual International Auctioneer Championship in Madison, Wisconsin on July 16. Mull was matched up against 62 other male auctioneers from throughout the U.S. This is his fifth time in the competition. Auctioneers are judged on appearance, poise, body language, eye contact, clarity, speed and rhythm of their auction chant.

Mull also met David Letterman at the Indianapolis 500 race by purchasing a ticket with a fellow auctioneer at the NAA fun Auction during the NAA Fun Conference and Show, they paid \$2,200 for the tickets.



Wilbur Mull  
Georgia

**Jim Newsome**, Florida, is now the president of the New York Mercantile Exchange. Jim was the Chairman of the US Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

**Andrew Otter**, Pennsylvania State, owner of Above & Beyond Property Management, was chosen to represent Pennsylvania in Cosmopolitan's 50 hottest Bachelors in the November 2004 issue.

## FFA Scholarship Winners

### 2003 National FFA Convention Drawing Winners

**Carl Weier**  
Dodgeville,  
Wisconsin



Carl is attending the University of Wisconsin-Platteville and earning a degree in Agricultural Engineering.



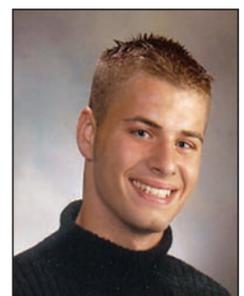
**Matthew Earman**  
Weyers Cave,  
Virginia

Matthew is attending Virginia Polytechnic Institute and majoring in general agriculture.

### 2004 FFA Foundation Winner

**Michael McDaniel**  
Middletown, Indiana

Michael plans to attend Purdue University to earn a degree in International Business, through the Agriculture Economics Department.



### 2004 National FFA Convention Drawing Winners

**Trent Cossey**, Murray, Kentucky

**Rodney Ray Baker, Jr.**, Frederick, Maryland

## 2005 Leadership Seminars

### Global Diversity In Agricultural Leadership

Oklahoma City February 11 - 12 Sheraton	Milwaukee February 18 - 19 Marriott West	Reno February 25 - 26 Hilton	Washington D.C. March 4 - 5 Hilton Crystal City
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**Registration Fees:** The registration fee will be \$100 per attendee until January 31, 2005

**Late Registration:** After January 31 the registration fee will be \$120

Please Contact Kevin Barnes for more information

Phone: 816-891-9200 ext. 19 Email: Kevin@AlphaGammaRho.org

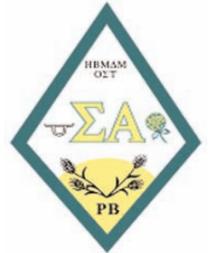
#### Alpha Gamma Rho & Sigma Alpha



Collegiates  
Alumni

National Leaders

Housemothers  
Advisers



*Sponsored by the Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity Educational Foundation*

**Greg and Neil Rejman**, Cornell, co-owners of Sunnyside Farms were recently featured in Dairy Values, a publication by DeLavel Inc. Their dairy was recently named Venice View Dairy, a long-standing family dairy in Scipio Center, New York. They operate the 3,500-acre dairy that milks 2,600 cows three times a day, with their father Jack Rejman. Greg and Neil represent the third generation of this dairy's management.

**Gene Starkey**, Wisconsin-Madison, was recognized at Cal Poly State University among seven other honored alumni for the Distinguished Service Award. Gene was the recipient from the College of Agriculture. In 1978 Gene began serving as department head of Dairy Science at Cal Poly, until he retired in 1991. During his tenure at Cal Poly, he oversaw the creation of the Dairy Products Technology Center (DPTC) and the construction of two facilities, one for the DPTC and one for the Dairy Cattle Instruction Center. He also served as adviser for the Chi Chapter of AGR. He is the author of "Rich Heritage," a history of the Dairy Science Department at Cal Poly. He lives in San Luis Obispo.

**Clifford Vrieze**, Minnesota, received the Association for Career and Technical Education, Teacher of the Year. Vrieze is currently a Farm Management Instructor at Truman High School in Minnesota.

### Martin Massengale Receives High Honors in Agriculture Industry

Martin Massengale, director of the University of Nebraska Lincoln Center of Grassland Studies, and former University of Nebraska president has been inducted to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Hall of Fame. Martin accepted the award October 21st at a ceremony in Washington, D.C.

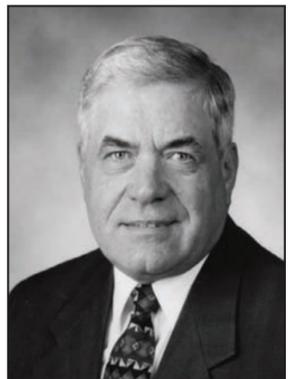
Massengale is one of 10 inductees into the new USDA Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame was created this year to recognize the CSREES's 10th anniversary. This honor is a peer-nominated award.

Martin has also been reappointed to the USDA's National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory board. There are six new members and three reappointed members other than Martin. Martin joined the Alpha Pi Chapter of AGR at the University of Arizona in 1959.



### Roger Wehrbein Receives honors from University of Nebraska

Roger Wehrbein received the Service Award for his outstanding service to the College of



Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR). Roger served in the U.S. Army after graduation and then returned to his family farm near Plattsmouth. He is now a regional director of Farm Credit Services.

Roger was elected to the Nebraska Legislature in 1986, 1990, 1994, 1998 and 2002. He currently serves as chair of the Appropriations Committee. Roger joined the Kappa Chapter of AGR at the University of Nebraska in 1957.

### E.T. York Receives NACAA Award For Service To U.S. and World Agriculture

E.T. York, chancellor emeritus of the State University System in Florida, received the 2004



Service to American and World Agriculture Award from the National Association of County Agricultural Agents at the organization's annual conference in Orlando, July 10-16. The award was presented July 15 for his many contributions to agriculture in the United States and the world.

Along with supporting the mission of land-grant universities, York served as an advisor to Presidents Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter and Reagan. In that capacity, he traveled widely to provide agricultural assistance in countries throughout Latin America, Asia and Africa. York also served as interim president of the University of Florida and vice president for agriculture and natural resources, for the university.

York continues to focus on alleviating world hunger, particularly on expanding food production to meet rapidly growing needs, making food safer and more accessible, and increasing production efficiency to lower food costs. He

has received many national and international honors with seven awards or programs established in his name. York joined the Xi Chapter of AGR at Auburn in 1941. York was Noble Ruler of Xi Chapter in 1942-1943, and a member of the AGR Hall of Fame.

# In Memoriam



**Karl Gardner**, initiated in to the Delta Chapter in 1933, passed away the morning of September 3, 2004. Karl fell at his home August 28, and suffered a severe head injury, he never fully regained consciousness.

Karl was still living in his home with his wife June, married for 65 years. Karl and June had two daughters, a son, Jim, and two grandchildren. Jim is also a brother of the fraternity.

Gardner was a retired professor of Dairy Science and Associate Dean of the University of Illinois College of Agriculture. He received his B.S. degree with highest honors from Purdue University in 1936, and his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Cornell. Karl served as Alpha Chapter Adviser from 1941-1956.

Karl also served as a Captain in the Third Army in WWII. He aided in establishing colleges of agriculture in India, Indonesia, and Sierra Leone. He was Mayor of Tolono and President of the area chapter of SAR.

Karl Gardner received the AGR Hall of Fame Award in 2000, and is a Brother of the Century.

**David Berry** grew up in Hopkinsville, Kentucky where he graduated from high school in 1992. He was an officer in his local FFA Chapter. David grew up on a local grain farm where his family raised corn, soybeans, and wheat.

David was initiated in the Alpha Omega Chapter of AGR at Murray State University in the spring 1993. He graduated with a BS Degree in Ag Mechanization. He was very active in his chapter. He was always the first one to donate his time, leadership and money. While at Murray State, David was two-time president of the Ag Mech. Club.

After graduation, David accepted a job with Case IH near Chicago, Illinois doing what he loved to do, tearing up equipment! However, David's love for the farm soon took over and he moved back home to farm with his father. David soon took over the farm while his father concentrated on the family trucking business.

David and his father, Ronnie, also loved tractor pulling. David's tractor was Berry's Beast. On October 16, 2004 while returning from a tractor pull in Portland, Tennessee, David and Ronnie were killed in a wreck when their semi ran off the road.

David and Ronnie will be greatly missed. We have lost a great brother and friend. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the entire Berry family.

*Written by the Bothers of Alpha Omega, Murray State University*



THE CAMPAIGN FOR AGR

The Campaign for AGR will provide funding to build a national resource base from which to launch innovative, chapter-level initiatives that will strengthen our collegiate chapters and individual members. This campaign is the 21st century manifestation of the Purpose set forth by our founding fathers nearly one century ago: to make better men, and through them, a broader and better agriculture.

For more information contact James Ferrell at 816-891-9200 ext. 21 or e-mail [James@AlphaGammaRho.org](mailto:James@AlphaGammaRho.org)

## Will you be at the World Ag Expo?

If so, make plans to attend the 11th Annual AGR Reception.

**Sponsored by:** Chi Chapter Alumni Organization

**Date:** Wednesday, February 9, 2005

**Time:** 4 - 7 p.m.

**Place:** Pitching Wedge Restaurant on the Tulare Municipal Golf Course, located directly south of the farm show grounds.

*The reception annually draws 100+ fraternity brothers for a wonderful networking session.*

For more information please contact Mike Gomes at [mgomes@precisionfarming.com](mailto:mgomes@precisionfarming.com)

## Transitions

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

### Colorado State

Leonard D. Goff, 1930  
G. Earl Burum, 1948

### Georgia

Paul A. Herndon, 1972  
R. Nathan Dillard, 1979

### Iowa State

Duane K. Peuse, 1964

### Kansas State

Allan V. Miller, 1966

### Maine

Fred S. Judkins, 1935

### Massachusetts

Edward E. Russell, 1952

### Michigan State

Emil P. Eschenburg, 1939

### Minnesota

Richard M. Bates, 1928  
Carl F. Sierk, 1939

### Missouri

Donald M. Gee, 1942  
Phillip A. Finney, 1962

### Montana State

Lawrence F. Jenni, 1943

### Nebraska

Norman W. Reynolds, 1947

### North Carolina State

G. T. Nuckolls, 1931  
David R. Hopkins, 1953  
Harry G. Davis, 1961

### Oregon State

Donald W. Jossy, 1938

### Pennsylvania State

Samuel A. Dum, 1938

### Purdue

John R. Brown, 1939  
Marvin A. Evens, 1953

### Southern Illinois

Eugene E. Trotter, 1970

### Vermont

James t. Davenport, 1961

### Wisconsin-Madison

George W. Trimberger, 1930  
Wesley (Christy) Christensen, 1935

# Housemother Spotlight

## The mother of all brothers Wild frat boys will miss retiring housemother

Article Courtesy of: Merlene Davis, LEXINGTON HERALD-LEADER Columnist

Helen E. White retired from IBM after 25 years and tried her best to settle into a more relaxing lifestyle.

That was 14 years ago, and it lasted four months.

"It got old and boring," White said. "I sat home for four months. I switched my house around, turned everything upside down. Finally I said, 'This is not for me yet.'"

So White got a job as a cook for the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity on the University of Kentucky campus. One semester later, she became the fraternity's housemother.

That move made her the first and only black fraternity or sorority housemother on the UK campus, and still the only one nationwide for the agriculture fraternity.

Now, after 14 years of a great deal more activity, White is retiring again. She says this time it's for real.

"I told them I would take the job until I get tired," said White, 64. "Now I'm tired."

"We're going to miss her," said fraternity member Garrick "Puddin'" Howell, 21.

"She is what the situation calls for," said Clint Meadows, 20. "If she needs to come upstairs and rip some hind ends, then that's what she does. If she needs to be nice, then that's what she does."

White lives at the fraternity house during the week and returns to her own home on weekends.

She runs a tight ship.

"On Thursday nights, everybody gets a little wild," said Howell. "She makes an appearance in the hall, and we all shoot to our rooms. She has that look."

"We have respect for Mom White," said Andrew Clem, 22. "If we do something wrong, she'll get on the intercom, for example, and call my name. 'Clem, get down here.' I'll come down shaking in

my skin. She'll put her finger on my chest and say, 'Clem, listen to me.' Then she'll say what's gone wrong or awry."

White insists the men go to class, clean the house and wash the dishes.

"I keep them in line," White said with a laugh. "I know these are some college kids, but you do as I say."

"And when they have problems, they come and talk to me."

She cooks lunch and dinner through the week, but not if the kitchen is dirty, something the men have learned the hard way.

"I say, 'This is garbage. Get that broom and dust pan and let's get started,'" White said, barking orders. "'It looks like a garbage can in here.'

"It's not much different than rearing my own four children," said White, who is divorced with four grown children, ranging in age from 37 to 43.

If the young men don't know how to mop or wash dishes when they come to White, they will before they leave. Each room is responsible for keeping the house clean for a week.

She also teaches etiquette and manners, said Tim Henderson, president of the AGR alumni board, who hired White. "They have a formal dinner once a month, and she teaches them how to sit at a table, which fork to use and how to act," he said.

Plus, he said, she has high moral standards and wants to teach the young men the right things to do. She also watches their general appearance.

"She doesn't get into running their lives or telling them they can't do this or do that as college kids do," Henderson said. "She's just there to help teach them right from wrong."

White organized the parents into a group nine years ago, and

that group has donated money for curtains, paint and other things that will keep the house more homey.

"She's very involved with parents," said Casey Story, 19. "She sits down and talks with them. The parents really like her. She's real down-to-earth."

Throughout all those years, White said, she has experienced only one incident regarding race.

During the disturbances surrounding the shooting of Tony Sullivan 10 years ago, one young man used a word she didn't appreciate.

"He didn't know I was standing there," White said. "I called the president in and told him so-and-so said something I didn't like, not one bit. I told him I didn't want to say anything to the young man right then because of my temper."

The president said he'd take care of it, and about 20 minutes later the offender was at her door apologizing profusely.

"He said, 'If my mom and dad knew I had said that, they would beat me,'" White said. "I am so sorry. I wasn't raised like that."

"I believed him and accepted his apology because he had always treated me with respect," White said.

Clem said race isn't a problem in the AGR house. "If it is an issue for anyone, they haven't met her or seen what she has to offer," he said. "It's not really an issue, and it shouldn't be an issue."

"It's not that we don't notice at all," Howell said. "But between us, we have superseded that."

White's retirement begins at the end of this semester on Dec. 17. The young men are giving her a retirement dinner, however, on Dec. 6, and they are not even making her cook.

"I fell in love with them," White said. "I hadn't intended to stay here that long, but they treat me so good."



Photo Courtesy of Joseph Rey Au, LEXINGTON HERALD-LEADER

Helen E. White shared memories of UK's Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity with Nicholas Hendrix, left, and Garrick "Puddin" Howell.

### MOVING? CHANGING JOBS? RECEIVING AWARDS?

CHAPTER & INITIATION NUMBER (IF KNOWN):	JOB TITLE:
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WORK PHONE:	
E-MAIL:	
FAX:	
NAME AS PRESENTLY LISTED:	
STREET ADDRESS:	
CITY:	
STATE: ZIP:	
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Please enclose a photo to be used in a future issue of SICKLE & SHEAF.

Send to: Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity, 10101 N. Executive Hills Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64153 or FAX: (816) 891-9401. (FAX label on reverse as well.)

### Are you aware of the Member Accident Protection Program?

The program is a membership benefit of Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity for all undergraduates. For more information about this benefit please contact:

**HRH/Kirklin & Co, LLC.**  
**Phone: 800-736-4327 Fax: 800-328-0522**  
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# Learn To Recruit BETTER

## Chapter Recruitment Workshops

**Purpose:** To develop a year round recruitment strategy tailored to your chapter and university with emphasis on pre-freshman and summer recruitment, that relies on entire chapter and alumni participation.

**When:** Available throughout the year with proper planning

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**Who Should Attend???** At least five undergraduates and five alumni who want to be actively involved in the development, support and implementation of their recruitment plan.

For more information, please contact your consultant at the AGR Home Office by

phone: 816-891-9200 or e-mail:

Josh@AlphaGammaRho.org Kevin@AlphaGammaRho.org

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Every chapter should have a Centennial Book in their library and formal dining room. The book is also great for helping with recruitment.

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Mail to the home office attention  
Amanda Erichsen

Please remember AGR brothers **Aaron Bryant** and **Chris Saylor**, both of the Alpha Tau Chapter at Western Illinois University, as they serve our country in Iraq.

### Dates To Remember

January 28-29, Adviser Forum, Home Office

February 11-12, Leadership Seminar, Oklahoma City

February 18-19, Leadership Seminar, Milwaukee

February 25-26, Leadership Seminar, Reno

March 4-5, Leadership Seminar, Washington D.C.

March 18 - 19, Recruitment School, Kansas City

April 7 - 9, National Board Meeting, Atlanta

AGR Home Office  
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