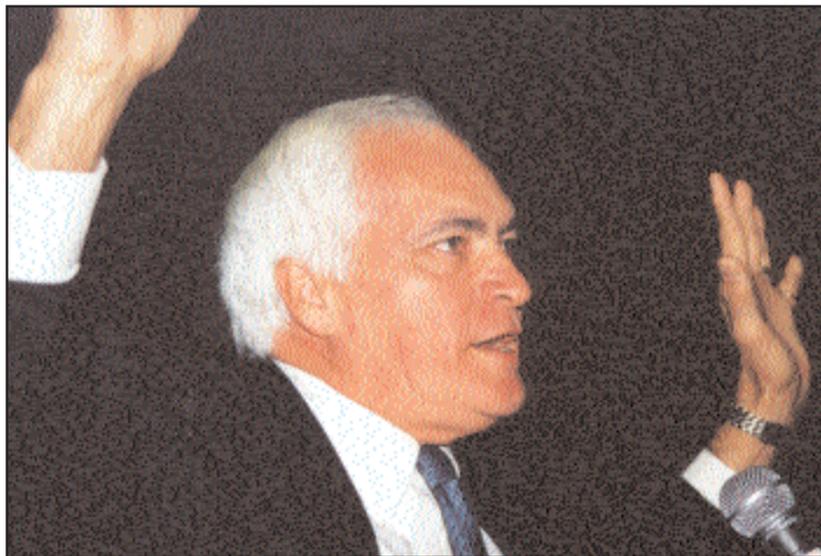


## Green Cows, Quags, and Mummies an interview with Dr. Lowell Catlett

by Ken Root, SICKLE & SHEAF editor



Dr. Catlett's message is simple: Differentiate or die.

When Dr. Lowell Catlett speaks to conventions of farmers or agribusiness leaders, you can literally hear the silence as each person is held at rapt attention by his dynamic delivery and fascinating phrasing. As he speaks he grimaces and shoves his long arms outward, approximating the reach of a professional basketball player. His voice goes alternately from shouts to whispers as the audience rides the intellectual, emotional and humorous highs and lows of his theatrically delivered remarks.

His speaking style is a cross between Evangelist Jimmy Swaggart and former Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz. He devotes much of his discussion to futurism and explores leading edge technology that is often unfamiliar to his audience. In the early 1990's, Catlett gave a speech titled: Green Cows, Quags and Mummies. He proposed that genetic engineering could someday modify a cow to the point that she could use photosynthesis directly in converting sunlight to milk and that an extinct species, the Quag, might be reborn by cloning preserved DNA. He further predicted that nano-robots will be injected into the human body to kill cancer cells. None of these concepts have yet been accomplished, but each has become more plausible as science has advanced.

Catlett now delves into explaining the future use of information in our society and cites examples of the younger generation's ability to network with a cell phone. He delights his audience when he tells of his own difficulty in carrying a cell phone and calls himself low-

tech but says he enjoys playing the game on the phone he now owns. Catlett is a past National FFA officer from Dalhart, Texas, and graduated from West Texas State University (now West Texas A&M). He was initiated by Alpha Gamma Rho while serving as adviser for the AGR Chapter at New Mexico State University. He is a professor of Agricultural Economics at NMSU in Las Cruces and is one of the university's most dynamic thought leaders. Undergraduate students clamor to get into his classes and emerge with a broad knowledge of the changing world. He has been awarded the highest honors of the department on numerous occasions.

The following interview with Lowell Catlett gives his perspective of Alpha Gamma Rho, today's college men and the pathway he followed to his current position.

**Tell S&S about your youth. Where were you raised, what interested you, what were your greatest achievements?**

*Catlett:* I was lucky enough to be raised on a farm and ranch near Dalhart, Texas. I, of course, didn't recognize it at the time. In my youth I saw nothing but hard work in a life involving production agriculture. To be sure the work is often hard, but the other rewards—a job well done, a sense of belonging to a very noble industry, the rewards of producing food, the value of working outdoors in nature, are difficult to see and understand when very young. I don't regret leaving production agriculture because I wasn't very good

at farming and ranching. My dad encouraged me to pursue what I loved so I went to college for no other reason than to find out about other careers.

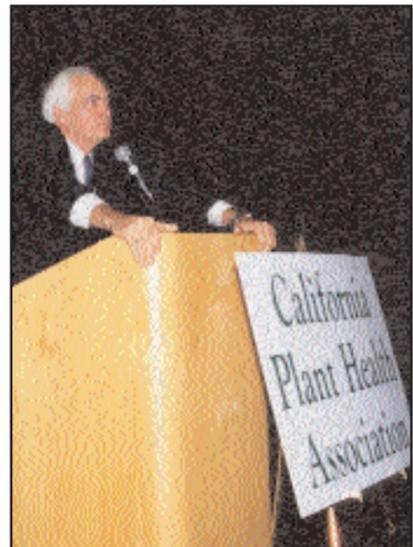
Everything interested me, and still does. My love of astronomy came from the clear panhandle nights when there was nothing else to do but stargaze. My love of plants, animals and the land came from the farm and ranch, but my love of learning came from my vocational agricultural teacher, Ike Trimble. Ike had the rare ability as a teacher to inspire you to not only learn, but to not be content with the status quo. He made you want to be a better person. The community of Dalhart supported school activities. The men and women in the community made students feel important and I think that is the real value of many rural communities—connecting business, school and life together.

I was active in FFA and was fortunate to be able to serve as both a state officer in 1966-67 and a national officer in 1968-69. Ike Trimble pointed the way and made it possible for me to be part of the FFA.

**How did you become an AGR? Any people to recognize and where did you go to college?**

*Catlett:* I graduated from West Texas State University with a B.S. in Agribusiness. West Texas was a wonderful place with many great teachers.

(continued on next page)



AGR is one of the best ways that young men can learn the power of a brotherhood of people helping each other. -Dr. Lowell Catlett

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Dr. Lowell Catlett cont.

The Dean of the School of Agriculture, Dr. Charles Smallwood, was one of my role models.

He took an active interest in all students and made W.T. a great place to get an education.

I was fortunate to have excellent teachers in college, but the one that had the most influence on me was Dr. Kenneth Wendland. Dr. Wendland was an outstanding professor a gifted teacher and mentor.

I was not involved with any fraternity as an undergraduate. I became involved with AGR when I became an adviser to the local chapter at New Mexico State University.

**As a young graduate, what did you wish to pursue?**

*Catlett:* I wanted to become a lawyer that worked on agricultural and natural resource issues, but towards the end of my undergraduate degree I decided I would rather go to graduate school than law school (graduate school offered an assistantship and law school offered an extra three years of extra college loans being an economist I picked income over expenses!!!) Graduate school convinced me that I really loved teaching and research so I never made it to law school and instead took a job as a professor.

**You have been recognized as an inspiring undergraduate teacher. What is it about teaching the younger Ag majors that you like or that you feel is important?**

*Catlett:* I guess I am always trying to do for others what Ike Trimble did for me. Ike took a raw country kid and added value by opening up a whole new world to me. Teaching is about adding value to people's lives. I simply try to open their minds to the wonderful world before them, especially in agriculture.

**What's on the minds of students today? Did Sept. 11 change their thoughts or actions?**

*Catlett:* Students want interesting and challenging careers. My generation simply wanted a job, but students today want the job to be more meaningful than a paycheck. They are very willing to move, work long or crazy hours and in general do what it takes to get the job done if they know why it is important. Students are no different than the general population when it comes to 9/11 the world is more uncertain now, but none of us are sure how that impacts us.

**What message are you bringing to your audiences?**

*Catlett:* Differentiate or die.

Everyone wants something that is unique to them cars, food, education, entertainment, or banking. Schools, governments and businesses that learn to offer unique services will be the most successful.

I have been helped throughout my career by wonderful teachers, friends and colleagues. Young men and women that learn the importance of helping others and in turn being helped by others will be more successful and will make a more meaningful contribution to society. AGR is one of the best ways that young men can learn the power of a brotherhood of people helping each other. ■

Do you have a story to share about an AGR Alumnus who has inspired, taught, or challenged young people? If so, please send your story to:  
 AGR Home Office,  
 Attn: Becky Schlake,  
 10101 N Ambassador Drive, Kansas City, MO 64153  
 or by e-mail to  
 Becky@AlphaGammaRho.org

*Western Kentucky Undergrad Among Final Four for top FFA Award*



**Tyson Sanderfur**, an undergraduate at Western Kentucky University, was named as a 2001 American Star

Farmer Award finalist. This award recognizes students holding the American FFA Degree who have established profitable agricultural enterprises or programs focusing on an agricultural field, demonstrated active involvement both in FFA and their communities, and met other agricultural education and leadership requirements. It is the highest degree members may achieve, representing years of dedicated efforts.

Sanderfur has expanded his farm operation into corn, wheat, cattle and swine, as well as a custom service operation. He has shown a good profit margin in grain bought and sold. He hopes to increase his row crop production to more than 1,000 acres by the time he finishes college. ■

**ALPHA GAMMA RHO  
 AGRICULTURE  
 FRATERNITY**

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**Pi Chapter's Day of Helping**



*Members of Pi Chapter help the Magical Child Foundation with cleanup after an ice storm.*

Members of Oklahoma State University (Pi Chapter) spent a day this winter helping the Magical Child Foundation clean up its training facility which was devastated due to an ice storm.

Carol Ann Washburn, spokesperson for the Magical Child Foundation, a non-profit Stillwater organization located at 6409 North Country Club Road, said the cost estimate for clean up of trees, limbs and other debris was \$12,000.

Washburn said their organization didn't have that funding in its budget and had been working to clean up the mess with the help of friends.

She said when they realized how overwhelming the task was they

called the AGR philanthropy chairman to see if its members could help with the cleanup.

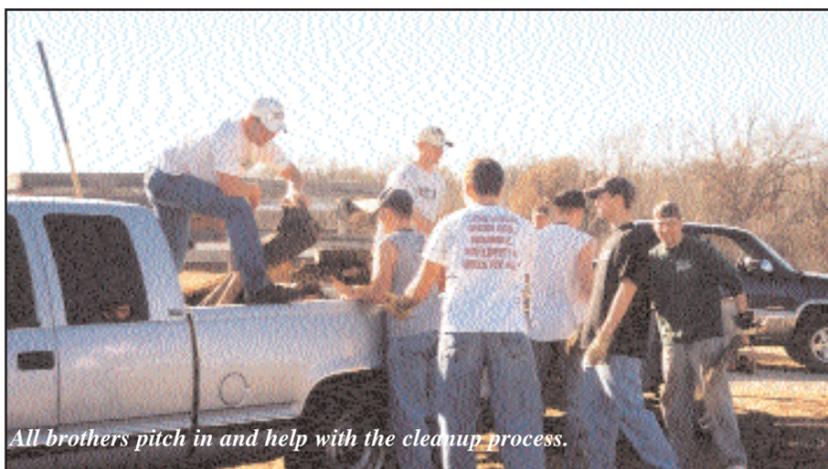
This place was just covered in sticks, Washburn said. We have a pond here and a lot of big limbs were down in the pond. We just couldn't get them out and we knew we needed some muscle.

On February 16, 25 brothers arrived to help with the cleanup.

I just asked if a few guys could come over and they came rolling in on Saturday with all of their trucks and tools, she said. They worked for six hours and literally accomplished more than we had in 11 days of cleanup. They just hit it.

She said the brothers showed natural team building abilities during their work day.

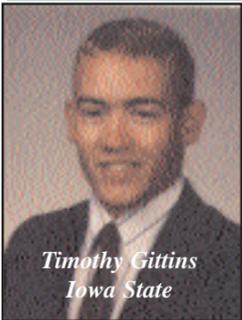
It was great to see those young men model such outstanding teaming skills naturally, It was a beautiful day and they could have been out doing a million things. ■



*All brothers pitch in and help with the cleanup process.*

## Iowa State Alumnus Receives Purple Heart

Reprinted with permission from the Omaha World Herald



Timothy Gittins  
Iowa State

happened to him.

He really hasn't told me anything about it. It's not bad, is all, said Shelly Gittins, who spoke to her husband, Capt. Timothy Gittins, by phone. I tried to ask him about it the other day. That's kind of his personality.

Gittins, 25, received a Purple Heart on Saturday at a military base in Bagram, Afghanistan.

Shrapnel hit Gittins in the forearm during an 18-hour battle March 2.

About 86 soldiers from the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division landed nearly on top of a large al-Qaida position and almost immediately took mortar and small-arms fire. Twenty-eight

A Council Bluffs native wounded on the first day of Operation Anaconda in Afghanistan has said little to his family about what

of the 86 American soldiers were injured. None died.

The U.S. force eventually withdrew from the area and returned with a larger force that took control of the area days later.

Gittins father, Leroy Gittins of Council Bluffs, said his son was flown to a Turkish hospital for treatment and returned to combat the next day. He said he saw Timothy on television coverage of the Purple Heart ceremony.

We'd like to see him back right away, Leroy Gittins said, but they're like brothers, I guess, so I'm sure that's where he wants to be right now, with his men.

Timothy Gittins was born in Council Bluffs and graduated from Harlan High School, where he was a wrestler, his father said. He graduated from Iowa State University in 1998 with a degree in Agricultural Education. He has been in the Army for four years. ■

## Three AGR Leaders Honored at the 72nd National 4-H Conference



Jim Moseley



Gene Swackhamer



Loren Kruse

On April 9, 2002, Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman presented awards to current and past 4-H leaders around the country who have worked closely with USDA to support the 4-H program. Veneman bestowed the awards during her keynote address at the 72<sup>nd</sup> Annual 4-H Conference's auditorium in Washington DC.

This recognition is given by 4-H to former members who, through their accomplishments in their chosen careers, are role models for 4-Hers across the nation, Veneman said. This special

recognition is given for exemplary, significant and distinctive leadership and citizenship.

Our honorees are inspiring the next generation of leaders to get involved with their communities, seek careers in public service, and learn more about agriculture.

Three AGR alumni received awards at the ceremony: Former Grand President, Gene Swackhamer; Former Educational Foundation President, Loren Kruse and the USDA Under Secretary, Jim Moseley. ■

## 2002-2003 Undergraduate Directors are Named



Joshua Dukart is a senior at North Dakota State University. Joshua has been involved in many activities such as Saddle and Sirloin Club,

Agriculture Ambassador and Blue Key National Honor Fraternity. Joshua was a Mr. NDSU Nominee in 2002 and NDSU's Mr. July, 2002. Joshua has held several offices as a member of AGR, including VNR - Membership Development, VNR - Standards/Scholarship, Parliamentarian and Recruitment Committee Member.



Kyle Nichols is a senior at Kansas State. Kyle is involved as an Ag Ambassador Transfer Recruitment Coordinator, Ag Council - Chairman

Ag Telefund and Alpha Tau Alpha Honorary Vice President. Kyle is also involved in the Master Mason Fidelity Lodge and the Greenwood County Shrine Club. Kyle has served as Noble Ruler and Assistant Recruitment Chairman as an undergraduate for AGR.



Ben Sanders is a junior at the University of Tennessee - Knoxville. Ben is involved in the University of Tennessee Judicial Board, Vice

President of the Student Government Association, Tennessee 4-H Foundation, Block and Bridle Club and UT Chamber Singers. Ben has held the positions of VNR - Scholarship and VNR - Alumni Relations as an undergraduate brother.



Adam Kahler is a senior at Oregon State. Adam is involved in the OSU Fish & Wildlife Club, American Wildlife Society, FFA and the

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. During the 2000 fire season, Adam was the youngest heli-rappeler in Region 6 of the USFS, and he is currently planning on working with fuels and controlled burning for ecosystem/wildlife/fisheries management. Kahler has held many chapter offices including Noble Ruler, VNR - Activities and VNR - Membership Development.

## Letter to the editor...

Dear Editor:

I read with interest the 2<sup>nd</sup> Century Vision article in the Winter 2002 edition of SICKLE & SHEAF. Thanks for a job well done. However, am I missing something? In the Fall issue of SICKLE & SHEAF, there was an article Alpha Gamma Rho Plans to go International. Following the article I exchanged emails with Phil [Josephson] expressing my interest and firm belief that in the next century AGR must go international. I am concerned that it received not one word in the AGR Vision Statement.

I grew up in soybean country (central Illinois). After Mother and Daddy, soybean was the next word I learned! Dad was very active in the American Soybean Association and as president in the later 1950's brought visitors from around the world into my life. As Soybean Product Manager for Asgrow Seed

Company for 15 years I saw our product sales spread world wide. Since retirement a dozen years ago I've been very active in Rotary International, serving as Governor of District 6360 two years ago.

ASA has initiated a program WISHH World Initiative for Soy in Human Health. See [www.wishh.org](http://www.wishh.org). Of course if WISHH is successful, US farmers will market more soybeans. Equally, they will address hunger worldwide. One of the targets of WISHH is people infected with HIV/AIDS. Soya proteins can greatly improve and extend their lives, the lives of mothers and fathers with children to care for. I don't know if it will happen in my lifetime, but I ask you shouldn't our Vision include AGR Chapters in Africa? When I was growing up in central Illinois, Brazil was not even marketing soybeans. Now they are the world's second leading producer. I ask you, shouldn't our Vision include AGR

Chapters in Brazil? Shortly after I returned from Korea, many years ago, a young Mennonite farmer, without my benefit of a degree from UI, said to me It's not what you know but what you do with what you know that makes a difference. Eli Hershberger became the first producer of plastic drainage tubing in the United States.

Thanks for listening AGR can make a difference in the world, if our Vision includes the world.

Fraternally,  
Bill Dimond, Alpha Chapter, 1951

Dear Bill,

Thanks for your comments about the Vision. I think you will be pleased to learn that our very first of three Key Goals is to grow our membership and leadership presence worldwide. As we created the Vision and Key Goals we discussed and debated the

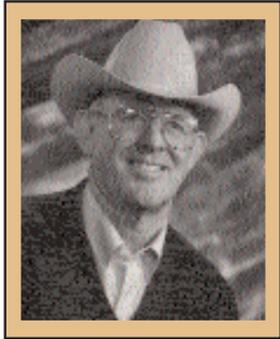
very points you are making in your letter. As a member of the National Board, I can assure you that we agree!

The trick will be to execute. We have limited staff resources in Kansas City and International Chapters do require considerable resources to form and maintain often the fraternity culture is vastly different than we find in the US. I think our initial efforts will be to participate as industry professionals in an international context, perhaps hosting events for AGR's at international food and agricultural events. We are in the early stages of a capital campaign to help create funds for just such an event.

Thanks for your feedback.

Bill Boehm  
Grand President

## Colorado State Alumnus Receives Alumni Honor



**Darris Cumming**, Colorado State, is the recipient of the Colorado State University Alumni Association's Honor Alumni Award for support to the College of Agricultural Science.

Cumming has served on various agricultural-related committees for CSU. A 1959 graduate of CSU, Cumming serves the Northeastern Colorado State Alumni Association as a 40-year member and past president. In addition, he is a founding member of the CSU Beef Club.

Cumming and his wife Peggy, have two sons and two grandsons. He currently owns Cumming Realty, with offices in Julesburg, Sterling and Yuma. ■

Did you  
know that  
the SICKLE  
& SHEAF  
can be  
found  
online?

[www.agrs.org](http://www.agrs.org)



Four recently graduated AGRs have accepted full time employment with Tennessee Farmers Cooperative. All four brothers are entering their first career jobs since college. They are shown in the picture with the Co-op's Director of Training, Jeff Griggs. (From left to right) Waylon Young, UT - Knoxville; Jeff Griggs, John Raines, UT - Martin; Robert Meadow, UT - Knoxville; Bill Reed, UT - Martin.

## ON THE MOVE ON THE ON THE MOVE ON THE MOV



**Ted McKinney**  
Purdue

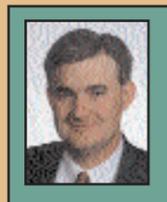
**Ted A. McKinney**, Purdue, received the Distinguished Agricultural Alumni award from Purdue University. This award is Purdue University's School of Agriculture's most prestigious honor. This award, presented annually since 1992, honors mid-career graduates who have made significant contributions to their professions or to society.

**Burt Rutherford**, Colorado State, is the communications director at the Texas Cattle Feeders Association. He recently won two awards from the Texas Outdoor Writers Association -- first place in newspaper features for a freelance article he wrote profiling the author of a book on hunting poetry and honorable mention for his "Ponderings" column published in "Outdoors in the Southern Rockies," a quarterly tabloid published by the newspaper in Raton, N.M. In addition to freelancing for several publications on outdoor and wildlife management subjects, Rutherford is editor/publisher of the Texas Outdoor Writers Association's monthly newsletter.

**Seth Muck, Derek Long and Andrew Hank Majeski**, Delaware Valley College, recently traveled to Mexico with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture as part of a trade mission. The delegation consisting of students and faculty, agribusiness representatives, and Pennsylvania's Secretary of Agriculture, Sam Hayes Jr., traveled to Mexico City and surrounding countryside. The purpose of the trip was to promote the export of Holstein dairy heifers to Mexico from Pennsylvania and to strengthen the relationship between the Republic of Mexico and the State of Pennsylvania. During the eight-day trip the brothers visited various ranches and agribusinesses, the Queratato International Livestock Exposition, as well as many places of historical interest such as the Aztec Pyramids.

**Bill Pierce**, Oregon State, has recently retired as a lieutenant colonel from the

United States Army after 20 years of service. During his 20 years in the United States Army, Bill served in a wide variety of aviation assignments around the world. Bill has held numerous positions from operations officer and company commander to executive officer in a variety of aviation units to include air cavalry squadrons, apache attack helicopter regiments, and lift battalions. Bill has held high level staff assignments to include Director of Military Personnel for the On-Site Inspection Agency in Washington DC and Plans Officer J3 at the United States Forces Korea. His last assignment prior to his retirement was in Washington DC where he was a Mission Commander, Chemical and Biological Division of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency.



**Clay Pope**  
Oklahoma

**Clay Pope**, Oklahoma State, is a state representative for Oklahoma. He is currently serving as the Chairman of the House Revenue and Taxation Committee and Vice-chairman of the House Agriculture Committee.

**Dr. Donald F. Schwartz**, North Dakota State, recently retired from the Department of Communication at Cornell University. He had been at Cornell for 22 years as a professor of Communication, and served five years as Department Chair during a transition to a research-based department. He was on the faculty/staff of North Dakota State University for 23 years before coming to Cornell.

**Charles Chuck Earheart**, Austin Peay State, was recently promoted to Fertilizer Warehouse Manager at the Springfield, Tennessee Agro Distribution. He is married with two children, Emily (4) and Fulton (1).

**Mitch Eviston**, Purdue, has been promoted to market specialist for the Midwest/Atlantic states business unit. Eviston will manage the product portfolio. He was previously with Mycogen Seeds.

**Matthew T. Wagner**, Montana State, was recently hired as a Billings Fire Fighter.

**Alan C. Sobba**, Kansas State, has been selected as director of the newly created Office of External Affairs. Sobba will be responsible for coordinating all agency dealings with the media, Congress, the White House and other government entities and interested industry organizations.

**Dane Schoenbaum**, Illinois, has joined the sales force at Arm & Hammer Animal Nutrition Group. Schoenbaum will be responsible for providing products and service in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland. He was previously with Dairy Management Services division of Purina.

**Brian Hamre**, California State - Chico, is a Vice President for Hamre Equipment Company, which is a heavy equipment sales and transportation company which does heavy haul trucking nationwide up to 130,000 pounds.

**Col. James S. Willougaby, USAF**, Montana State, retired from the USAF after 27 and 1/2 years on September 1, 1992. His last assignment was defense advisor to Indian Gout through the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi, India. He is currently a deputy site manager and test engineer for child support enforcement system for the state of Alabama. He has served on this project for eight years.

**Robert R. Roberson**, Auburn, is the owner of a nursery in Florida and was recently inducted into the Florida Nursery Hall of Fame. He also recently received the Distinguished Service Award from the Florida Chapter of Gamma Sigma Delta. Brother Roberson also serves on the Board of Directors for Farm Credit of Central Florida.

**Gayle V. Parrish**, Tennessee-Martin, recently retired from the University of Tennessee Agriculture Extension in Henderson County after a 30 year career as a 4-H agent. He now works with Woodmen of the World Insurance Society in Lexington, Tennessee.

**Dr. John T. Waddell**, Illinois, has joined Danbred North America as corporate director of veterinary services. Waddell will act as liaison to the veterinary community.

## Pi Chapter Alumnus, Bill Jacobs, receives Graduate of Distinction Award

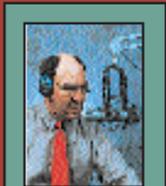
Bill Jacobs, Oklahoma State '65, was presented with the OSU Graduate of Distinction Award for 2002. This Award, presented annually since 1949, recognizes graduates with a B.S. degree in Animal Science at OSU who have compiled outstanding records of achievement and service, particularly in the field of Animal Agriculture.

Bill Jacobs' dedication to improving livestock has been a service to ranching at home and around the world. His unique ability to take complicated concepts, simplify and organize, and provide direction that works for all livestock producers has made him a leader in ranch management.

Jacobs is past president of the Oklahoma Hereford Association and the Oklahoma State Animal Science Alumni Association. He currently serves as director of both the Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association and OHA. His presentations on pasture management and livestock selection are respected throughout the country, and his presentation at the 1999s World Hereford Conference in Argentina entitled "Cowboy Genetics" received international acclaim. Bill served AGR as a Regional Vice President and chapter adviser at Cal Poly. ■

## MOVE ON THE MOVE ON THE MOVE

**Ken Root**, Oklahoma State, has been selected as the new executive director for The National Association of Farm Broadcasters. Root will begin his tenure with NAFB June 3, 2002. The NAFB headquarters will relocate to Kansas City, Missouri. To this position, Root brings personal farm broadcast experience and executive director experience, serving as the executive for the National AgriChemical Retailers Association from 1989 to 1992. In that capacity, he was responsible for management, budgeting, promotion, public relations and fundraising. Most recently, Root was the developer and original host of AgriTalk.



**Ken Root**  
Oklahoma



**John Bonner**  
Iowa State

**John M. Bonner**, Iowa State, was awarded the title of Fellow by the American Society of Animal Science.

**Dennis A. Kicklighter**, Georgia, is an Engineering Branch Chief for the Joint STARS System Support Division at Robbins AFB, Georgia. He was awarded the Air Force Meritorious Civilian Service Award in June of 2001 and was promoted to GS-14 in February of 2002. He is responsible for providing engineering and technical support for the Joint STARS aircraft operational fleet and oversees an integrated team of Air Force civilians and contractors.

**Michael T. Walker**, Tennessee - Knoxville, is the director of R&D, Eastern Division of Pilgrim's Pride Corporation, Broadway, Virginia.



**Michael Walker**  
Tennessee -  
Knoxville

**John A. Niemann**, Kansas State, now works for Excel Corporation as the Brand Manager for Sterling Silver, a premium line of beef, pork and deli. He now resides in Andale, Kansas with wife Jennifer and two sons, Peyton (2 1/2 years) and Trace (5 months).

**Eric Wright**, Delaware, is currently serving as the Beta Upsilon Alumni Corporation President. He is currently a research associate for Schillinger Seed, Inc. He is in charge of Soybean Variety Selections; Greenhouse Soybean Disease Screenings; Maintenance of four research locations research equipment; and all of the company's computer systems, databases and research data analysis.

**Dr. John Paul Eddy**, Minnesota, received the International Environment Educator of the Year 2002 in honor of his extensive contributions to environmental projects from Asia to America from 1954 to 2002 at the 2002 AAWE CARE Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana on March 24, 2002. Dr. Eddy has been invited to deliver a paper at Oxford University on July 2, 2002 in England on Reforming Higher Education World Wide.

**William J. Perleberg**, Minnesota, was a finalist for Caregiver of the year - Emergency Department. He was one of the four finalists out of 85 RN's.

**Bartlett S. Schofield**, Murray State, was recently elected Treasurer of the McCracken County Republican Executive Committee and is scheduled to sit for the CPA exam in November of 2002.

**Dr. Ryan B. Hammell**, Minnesota, married Jessica Stamschror on June 8, 2002.

**Dr. Donald L. Plucknett**, Nebraska, has been busy reviewing an agricultural development program in Africa which is sponsored and administered by former President Jimmy Carter and Nobel Prize Laureate, Dr. Norman Borlaug. To date they have reviewed the programs in Ghana, Malawi, Mozambique and Uganda, and will complete reviews of Nigeria and Ethiopia by the end of August 2002.

**Jim Sleichter**, Kansas State, and his wife Linda announced the birth of their daughter Katherine Diane Sleichter on August 24, 2001.

## John Crouch named Executive Vice President for American Angus Association



The American Angus Association board of directors has named John R. Crouch, UT - Knoxville, executive vice president

for the Association effective immediately. He takes over the reins of the world's largest beef breed organization, which is headquartered in St. Joseph, Missouri.

Crouch has served as the Association's director of performance programs since 1981 and in that time has directed programs that contributed to the formation of the world's largest database of beef cat-

tle records. He also managed the Angus Herd Improvement Records program and the genetic evaluation program for the American Angus Association's National Cattle Evaluation, *Sire Evaluation Report* and *Pathfinder Report*.

His tenure with the American Angus Association began in 1974 as the Association's regional manager in Georgia, Florida, North Carolina and South Carolina. He was inducted into the Association's Angus Heritage Foundation in 1999 for his contributions to the breed. He has worked closely with the Association's breed improvement committee and many specially appointed committees and task forces.

He and his wife Judy, reside in St. Joseph, Mo., and have five children and 15 grandchildren. ■



*This spring Executive Director, Phil Josephson, and past Grand President (and former NIC director) Al Johnson visited Washington DC for Greek visits to Congressional leaders. They stand here with Congressman and Brother Jerry Weller (Illinois '76). There are currently 160 Greeks in the Congress and nine of those are AGR brothers.*

## Eta Alumnus Elected President of National Cattlemen's Beef Association



*Wythe Willey (left) with Joel Brinkmeyer (right), Executive Director of the Iowa Cattlemen's Association*

Iowa State alumnus, Wythe Willey of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, was recently elected the National Cattlemen's Beef Association president. Willey comes to the presidency with a strong founda-

tion in the cattle industry as well as a practicing lawyer. Presently, he oversees the same operation he grew up on in Jackson County, Iowa.

He is a member and has completed a two-year term as president of the Iowa Cattlemen's Association. He served as a point person in their efforts to attract a state-of-the-art beef packing facility which helped him learn about meat packing and retailing businesses.

Willey has served as a chief-of-staff to a state governor, worked for a US senator and argued cases before the state's Supreme Court.

Roger Stuber, a North Dakota rancher and former NCBA president, had this to say about our AGR, Wythe Willey:

He's got a lot of courage of his own convictions and his working style demands a lot of respect.

Wythe Willey feels his biggest overall goal as the NCBA's president is to continue to have the beef industry make progress within itself. He wants to work to promote his belief that the beef industry is the backbone of a healthy and viable rural America. ■

### Attention all AGR Authors: WE WANT YOUR BOOKS!

*As part of the special 2004 History Project, we are requesting that all brothers who have authored a book please donate a copy of your book to the Home Office. Please send materials to: AGR, Attn: Becky Schlake, 10101 N Ambassador Drive, Kansas City, MO 64153*

## Chapter Strategic Planning a Success!



Facilitator Zane Akins and Vermont brothers at the first Strategic Planning session.

The Alpha Rho chapter found that the planning process is more than just putting goals on a piece of paper. It initiated positive and constructive dialog between the undergraduates and alumni about issues important to the future success of the chapter. The process itself may be more important than the product it generated.

In a return visit at the time of the Pink Rose Formal about two months after the session, it was obvious that attitudes were more positive, communications were improved and they were already boasting about some mini-

successes. In short, they were feeling better about themselves. The strategic planning session gave direction for the future, established goals to be accomplished and assigned responsibility and target dates. In short it helped them articulate more clearly, come to consensus on what path to take and capture in writing those ideas that they collectively and instinctively knew had the potential to make a difference for the chapter and each of them individually. They are not only on a path to be more successful, but feeling better about doing it. ■

## New Staff Member Hired at Home Office

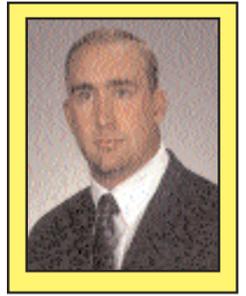
Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity is pleased to announce the addition of Josh Terhune who will serve as chapter consultant for the Midwest/Western U.S.

Josh is an alumnus from Theta Chapter at the University of Missouri-Columbia. His activities as an undergraduate included serving as Vice Noble Ruler - Activities and Philanthropy Chair. He was also a School of Natural Resources Student Council president, a Special Olympics volunteer, and Greek Link Director.

Josh is an Americorps National Service Award winner, a Cecil B. Keisler Outstanding Junior award winner, Jerry Litton

Outstanding New Member Award winner and the recipient of the MU Community Service Award.

Josh graduated in May 2002 with a bachelor of science in Fisheries and Wildlife. ■



Josh Terhune  
Missouri

## MOVING? CHANGING JOBS? RECEIVING AWARDS?

CHAPTER & INITIATION NUMBER (IF KNOWN):			JOB TITLE:		
MO	DAY	YEAR	EMPLOYER:		
HOME PHONE: ( )			AWARDS & LEADERSHIP POSITION IN INDUSTRY, COMMUNITY:		
WORK PHONE: ( )					
E-MAIL:					
FAX: ( )					
NAME AS PRESENTLY LISTED:					
STREET ADDRESS:					
CITY:					
STATE:			ZIP:		
SOCIAL SECURITY NO.:					

Please enclose a photo to be used in a future issue of SICKLE & SHEAF.

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

## Transitions

The following deaths were reported to the Home Office since the last publication.

<b>Auburn</b> Charles D. Little, 1946 Bobby C. Pass, 1951 Coyt T. Wilson, 1960	<b>Georgia</b> Lamar Hardegree, 1964 Hildreth A. Hill, 1966	<b>Minnesota</b> John W. Nelson, 1922 Vernon L. Baldwin, 1933 Richard B. Behrends, 1940 John R. Conter, 1940 Donald W. Moeller, 1942 Eldon H. Madison, 1942 Edwin W. Mogren, 1942 Roy C. Munson, 1947 David H. Knudtson, 1947 Raymond M. Mitteness, 1947 George H. Drewry, 1952	<b>Oregon State</b> Bruce E. Stewart, 1935 John B. Gearhart, 1936 Richard O. Prowell, 1947
<b>Cal Poly State</b> Llewellyn A. Brown, 1923	<b>Iowa State</b> Robert M. Blakely, 1941 Eldon C. Stutsman, 1979	<b>Montana</b> Donald E. Stephens, 1946	<b>Ohio State</b> Thereon Johnson, 1933 Maynard W. Brugler, 1933 Edward W. Reisinger, 1936 Newton Mote, 1948
<b>California - Davis</b> Stanley E. Jones, 1938	<b>Kansas State</b> Melvin C. Poland, 1939 William J. Bracken, 1947	<b>Nebraska</b> Mark T. Allen, 1941 Joe J. Huckfeldt, 1953	<b>Penn State</b> Robert C. Schneider, 1928 Robert E. Gray, 1931
<b>California - Fresno</b> George Cheldelin, 1963 Joseph L. Brown, 1986	<b>Kentucky</b> Fred C. Hafer, 1930 James B. Smathers, 1932	<b>North Carolina State</b> Richard B. Elms, 1923 Richard K. Carrigan, 1930 David H. Smith, 1948	<b>Purdue</b> Lewis W. Lafuse, 1937 Lawrence E. Germann, 1948
<b>Colorado State</b> James T. Fulton, 1932 Chester G. Crook, 1933 Herbert L. Hubbard, 1940 Robert N. Allen, 1949 Sam F. Groom, 1958	<b>Maine</b> Russell M. Bailey, 1926 Stanley H. Blanchard, 1931 Wayne S. Rich, 1931	<b>North Dakota State</b> D. Kyle Miller, 1942 Carl L. Persson, 1946 Alvin M. Dordahl, 1948	<b>Tennessee - Knoxville</b> Jerry L. Looney, 1963
<b>Cornell</b> J.L. Schoonmaker, 1920 Harold L. Sawyer, 1927 Ceylon R. Snider, 1935 Kenneth E. St John, 1936 Verner C. Hudson, 1939 Allen Webster, 1941 William L. Davis, 1942 Robert N. Clauson, 1947 Joseph D. Bokman, 1950 Merwin K. Young, 1959 Grant S. Smith, 1961	<b>Maryland</b> Edward B. Talbott, 1940 Francis A. Gray Jr., 1941 Douglas Seabrease, 1967	<b>Oklahoma State</b> Richard M. Pope, 1936 Harry D. Hodges, 1941 Gene F. Tabor, 1942 James W. Spradling, 1950 Kyle L. Aebi, 1998	<b>Tennessee - Martin</b> Matthew H. Barnes, 1999
<b>Delaware</b> Ty Spicer, 2000	<b>Massachusetts</b> Glenn F. Shaw, 1933 Roscoe H. Bemis, 1950	<b>Washington State</b> Donald D. Creger, 1945 Ernest D. Norton, 1947 Marvin G. Sickles, 1947	<b>Wisconsin - Madison</b> Leslie R. Frank, 1931 Harry A. Palmiter, 1949 Daniel H. Honold, 1955
<b>Florida</b> William A. Jackson, 1947	<b>Michigan State</b> Wilbur J. Lohr, 1937 Edwin T. Foster, Jr., 1947 Thomas H. Williamson, 1950	<b>Missouri</b> Nelson G. Haley, 1936 Jack K. Palmer, 1940 R. Russell Drane, 1946	

# Illinois family attends fourth National



All five members of the DeSutter family will be attending the National Convention in Minnesota. From left to right: Madeline (age 2), Mike, Charlene (age 13), John (age 5), and Melanie.

Illinois State alumnus, Mike DeSutter, doesn't want to hide the fact that AGR National Conventions are all about fun.

DuSutter, a 1986 initiate at

Illinois State, has attended every convention (with one exception) since 1988. Not only has the Illinois farmer attended all those conventions, but his family has attended the last three conven-

tions as well. DeSutter said that going to conventions reenergizes him as to why he became an AGR. He is quick to point out that the conventions are really a good time not just fraternity meetings. He explains that the fraternity business gets taken care of, but conventions are mainly a time for meeting old friends, making new ones, and networking with AGRs from all across the country. DeSutter's family enjoys attending the conventions because they get to visit a new part of the country, go on exciting tours, and stay in a nice hotel.

DeSutter's first convention experience in 1988, as a Noble Ruler, set the standard for his future conventions. He recalls meeting Orville Redenbacher and Earl Butz, and being very impressed by these agricultural giants. What

stood out in DeSutter's memory more than anything else, however, is that these important people are just regular people that were willing to talk and socialize just like anyone else.

DeSutter says that he is always amazed at how many AGRs he runs across from all over the country and how friendly all brothers are.

DeSutter and his family (wife Melanie, children -- Charlene, 13; John, 5; and Madeline, 2) are planning on attending the 2002 National Convention in Minnesota on August 11-14. Mike DeSutter encourages all AGRs to attend National Conventions, and to bring their families with them. He promises it will be an unforgettable experience. ■

## Set your sights on Minnesota

by  
Scott Whitman  
2002 Convention Committee



Holy bait buckets! The 2002 AGR Convention is just around the corner. We've planned an exciting convention with tours, workshops and off-site events designed to give adventurous AGR alumni, delegates and guests a taste of this upper Mississippi River region and its thriving agricultural industry.

So, gather up your gear and set your sights on Minnesota.

### Program highlights

The convention steering committee has developed an exciting program for the 2002 gathering of AGR in Minnesota.

Bill Manwarren of Agriliance, and chair of the program committee, says the 2002 convention program is

designed to create a high-value experience.

We wanted to offer something unique to the agriculture industry and culture of this region that's tied so closely to the northern Mississippi River. We're also bringing in national agribusiness leaders and prominent AGR alumni," says Manwarren.

One of our goals was to offer a variety of opportunities for delegates, alumni and guests to interact with these leaders and one another, he says.

The program gets kicked-off Sunday evening with an exciting welcome to Minnesota at the new McNamara Alumni Center adjacent to the convention hotel as Goldy, the University of Minnesota's talented rodent mascot, and his special guests set a championship pace for the 2002 convention. Following dinner, entertainers Lena & Tina serve a heaping helping of fun, and a little taste of up north humor.

On Monday delegates dig into current issues with an in-depth look at industry trends featuring a panel of national agribusiness leaders and close the day with a reception and tour at the world headquarters of Cargill.

Tuesday features a Mississippi River power and agriculture tour sandwiched in between a morning address from AGR alumnus and U.S. Congressman from Florida, Adam Putnam, and a blowout evening BBQ

and Auction at the AGR Pioneer Village.

On Wednesday delegates discuss future technology in production in workshops hosted by agribusiness leaders, and enjoy a luncheon with Monsanto's U.S. Markets Leader, Kerry Preete. Everything wraps up Wednesday night with the awards banquet AGR Hall of Fame induction and the AGR Education Foundation auction.

See the detailed program in your registration packet, or visit the convention web site ([www.AGR2002.com](http://www.AGR2002.com)) for additional updates.

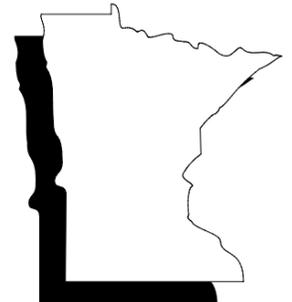
### Just for Alumni

The convention committee has planned several special events that honor the contributions of our alumni, and offer opportunities for alumni to visit with one another and meet convention delegates. Alumni should make note of these special program dates:

**Monday, August 12 (3:00-5:00 p.m.) Special Ceremonies**  
Kick off the convention with Vespers, the Opening Ceremony and Distinguished Service Member Initiations. Lambda brother, the Reverend Kevin Woestehoff, will officiate.

**Tuesday, August 13 (9:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m.) Tour through Hiawathaland**

This special outing is packed with sites and attractions



unique to the upper Mississippi River Valley, including the Red Wing Pottery factory, Sibleyland Swedish Church and tracker organ, America's Dairyland, Laura Ingels Wilder's birthplace, lunch at Alma's Buena Vista overlooking Lock & Dam No.4, Kellogg's Lark Toys carved carousel, Grumpy Old Men sites at Wabasha and the Wabasha Eagle Observatory. Alumni will then rendezvous with the convention delegates at the historic Little Log House for the **AGR Pioneer Village, BBQ and Auction**. For background information on this tour, visit the Mississippi River Valley Online Travel Guide ([www.mississippi-reiver.org](http://www.mississippi-reiver.org)).

**Tuesday, August 13 (4:00 - 8:30 p.m.) AGR Pioneer Village BBQ & Auction**

This is the signature regional alumni event of the convention. The Little Log House recreates a turn-of-the-century village and gardens. We will be steam thrashing, shingle making, blacksmithing and generally carrying on Main Street business as usual. After the BBQ, we will close out the past century and the evening with an old-fashioned farm auction.

(Continued on back page)

# Set your sights on Minnesota

## Wednesday, August 14 (5:30-10:30 p.m.) Closing Banquet

Close out the convention in style with the reception, Awards Banquet and AGR Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony.

## Explore Minnesota

Plan to arrive a few days early, or stay a few days after and explore greater Minnesota. It's called going out-state. There are dozens of outdoor recreational sites in and within an hour's drive of the Twin Cities. To find the perfect spot for your own Minnesota adventure, visit the Explore Minnesota Trip Planner at [www.exploreminnesota.com](http://www.exploreminnesota.com).

## Getting There

The Twin Cities is within a day's drive (or two) from many Midwestern AGR chapters. For those from farther reaches, direct flights to the Minneapolis-Saint Paul International Airport are available from most major cities at reasonable prices (but book your flights soon!).

The address for the Radisson Hotel Metrodome is:

### Radisson Hotel Metrodome

615 Washington Ave SE.  
Minneapolis, MN  
Phone: (612) 379-8888  
Fax: (612) 379-8682

The Radisson is located just off I-35 West at the East Bank exit. You'll find driving directions and a map on the Radisson Hotel Metrodome web site ([http://www.radisson.com/minneapolismn\\_metrodome](http://www.radisson.com/minneapolismn_metrodome)).

If the Dairy State is on your travel itinerary, check with the Wisconsin Department of Tourism (800-432-8747)

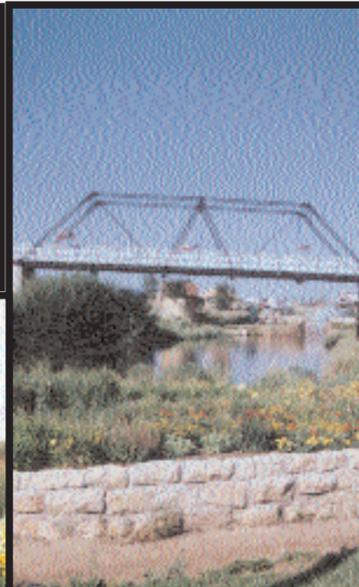
Visit the convention web site ([www.AGR2002.com](http://www.AGR2002.com)) for Minnesota road construction schedules and maps, as well as directions to the Radisson Metrodome/Campus Hotel and Lambda chapter house, information on low-cost parking, last-minute air fare links, campus parking locations and other handy travel logistics.

Convention registration

If you haven't already registered for the convention, visit [www.AGR2002.org](http://www.AGR2002.org) to download a printable registration form and mail in your registration today!

If you have questions about registration, call the AGR Home Office at (816) 891-9200, or send email to [agr@AlphaGammaRho.org](mailto:agr@AlphaGammaRho.org).

If you have any questions, contact the Home Office at [agr@AlphaGammaRho.org](mailto:agr@AlphaGammaRho.org), phone (816) 891-9200 or FAX your questions to (816) 891-9401. ■



Clockwise from top: Goldy the Gopher, the University of Minnesota's mascot will entertain Conventioneers; 1/3 replica shown here of the spiral bridge that once crossed the Mississippi River; Wells Fargo Farm in the middle of the twin cities connecting food with the consumer in high tech fashion; and Sylvia's Garden, which was featured in Country Living Magazine.

## 2002 Convention Sponsors Leading the Pack

The convention planning committee wishes to thank the following corporate partners for sponsoring the 2002 Alpha Gamma Rho National Convention. Their generous support makes it possible for us to provide the outstanding programs, events and tours delegates will experience at the 2002 Convention in Minnesota.



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For more information about how to participate as a convention sponsor, contact Rob McClelland at (612) 845-3809, or [RMcClelland@AgTechIntl.com](mailto:RMcClelland@AgTechIntl.com)

## Dates To Remember

- June 28-29 - Adviser Forum  
Kansas City, MO
- August 12-15 - National Convention  
Minneapolis, MN
- September 13-14 - Leadership Orientation  
Kansas City, MO
- November 8-9 - National Board Meeting  
El Paso, Texas

