

# AGR ACTION

NOVEMBER 2012

## Missouri Chapter wins at 2012 Greek Honors



Theta Chapter was very successful this year at the University of Missouri's 2012 Greek Honors Night on Wednesday, Oct. 3.

The Chapter brought home the Overall IFC Excellence award, which recognizes the top ranked fraternity on campus. Criteria for the award include academics, risk management, member development, unity/diversity, recruitment and service/philanthropy.

The University of Missouri has challenged its Greek Community to adopt Standards of Excellence that will form a basis for cooperation and interaction for the benefit of the University and Greek Community. This program recognizes and rewards those organiza-

tions that consistently exceed expectations as well as provides guidance and support to those organizations that fail to meet the expectations of the University and the Greek Community.

In addition to this honor, two individual brothers also received awards.

Undergraduate Britt Kagay won the Nathan L. Shore IFC scholarship. This award is given to a junior who meets or exceeds a minimum GPA. Other factors include leadership, community service, developing brotherhood in the IFC community and a commitment to improving the Greek community.

Alumnus Ryan Milhollin received the outstanding faculty advisor award.

*Information courtesy of University of Missouri*

## Peek into this issue...



### Iowa State undergraduate wins entrepreneurial scholarship

Colin Hurd was awarded a \$10,000 scholarship to build business idea



### Oklahoma State alumnus receives CASNR award

Jason Harvey one of two alumni recognized for early career success

### Upcoming events

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### Iowa State undergraduate wins entrepreneurial scholarship

With hopes of creating a solution to a common farming problem, Iowa State undergraduate Colin Hurd has found new initiative: a \$10,000 scholarship.

Winner of the 2012 Murray Wise Associates Agriculture Entrepreneurship Scholarship, Hurd plans to use the scholarship as capital to build his business idea, called "TrackTill." The \$10,000 is awarded to one student per year, through the Iowa State Agricultural Entrepreneurship Initiative Program, who has a business idea that has the potential to be successful in the agricultural market.

"America needs to be inventive to stay competitive," said Hurd, senior in agricultural studies and the 2012 Murray Wise Associates Agriculture Entrepreneurship Scholarship Winner. "We have to think creatively to solve a real life problem."

TrackTill is aimed at solving a complicated issue that every farmer runs across in the field: soil compaction. Hurd said soil compaction is a growing issue. As farming equipment increases in size, the weight of the farming equipment also increases, which means more soil compaction. More soil compaction means there is less space in the soil for water and air and thus makes it harder for the crop

seeds to emerge through the soil.

Hurd created an attachment to a planter that would reduce this compaction and thus increase the overall yield in the fields. Due to proprietary reasons in waiting for a patent for his prototype, Hurd would not discuss too many details of his invention to protect his business idea. Hurd did say, however, that much more work is needed for him to receive this patent.

Through the Agricultural Entrepreneurship Initiative Program, Hurd was able to network with an agricultural engineer who graduated from Iowa State. Hurd and his collaborator will receive their patent once they are able to take the idea, graphically depict the product and create a working prototype. They hope to have a working prototype by spring.

Once Hurd has a patent, he will still have to worry about the business end of entrepreneurship.

"To get to a point where it can create a profit has been calculated to be at \$450,000," Hurd said.

Hurd hopes to grow the business and leave an impact on farming, but understand the challenges ahead if he owns his own company.

"It's next to impossible to compete with the three giants," Hurd said,

referring to the three major farming equipment companies of John Deere, Case-I-H and AGCO. "The business should be profitable on his own, or another route is being bought out."

Stacey Noe, program coordinator of the Agricultural Entrepreneurship Initiative Program, regarded Hurd and his work highly.

"[Hurd] is a really impressive student," Noe said. "Academically, he is very successful and is very driven, which is what we look for in this scholarship."

Hurd was very involved in the initiative program's incubator program, which fosters students business ideas, networks them with professionals and exposes them to agricultural entrepreneurship and business development.

The scholarship is in its second year at Iowa State and is endowed by Murray Wise Associates, a company in farming real estate. Murray is an alumnus of Iowa State who wanted to make a large impact on students.

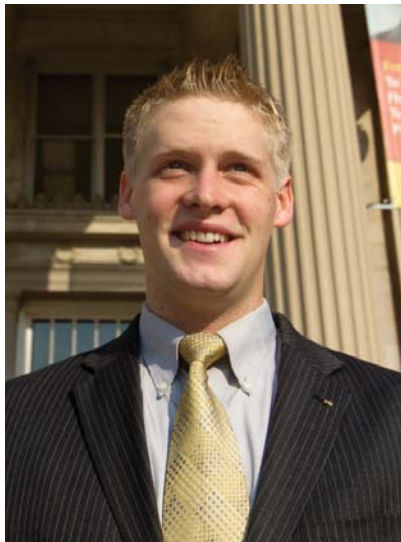
The previous winner of the scholarship set high expectations for Hurd to fill in terms of financial success.

"Last year's winner Michael Koenig's business, ScoutPro, is expected to make \$100,000 dollars in sales in next year," Noe said.

Hurd is driven to fill his predecessor's shoes: "If you have a business idea, you can pursue it. You just have to have the commitment, passion, and vision to do so."

Hurd was initiated by Eta in 2009.

*Information courtesy of Iowa State Daily*





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## Oklahoma State alumnus receives CASNR award

Oklahoma State's College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR) prepares its graduates to succeed at the highest levels of their chosen career path. The Early Career Achievement Award recognizes two former CASNR students who have found early success in their careers.

Jason Harvey, Oklahoma State alumnus and native of Beggs, Okla., graduated from Oklahoma State University in 1995 with a Bachelor of Science in agricultural education and a minor in agronomy. He earned his Master of Science in agricultural education from Oklahoma State University in 1997.

Harvey has worked for the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, & Forestry in the Market Development Division for the past 15 years. His role has included assisting specialty crop producers and communities in establishing farmer's markets and working with more than 350 agricultural entrepreneurs to promote their products through his coordination of the Made in Oklahoma program. Currently he is the grants coordinator for the Market Development Division where he administers more than \$2 million in federal and state funds for programs that are designed to develop or improve uses for agricultural products and expand the state's production of value-added products.

Harvey is involved with many statewide 4-H and FFA youth ac-



tivities. He serves as a general livestock superintendent at the Tulsa State Fair where he helps coordinate the open and junior market cattle, sheep, goat and swine shows. In addition, Harvey serves on the swine committee at the Oklahoma Youth Expo and conducts cattle grading competitions across the state.

Harvey served on the OSU Agriculture Alumni Board from 2003 until 2009 and was the organization's president in 2006 and 2007. During that time he was also a member of the OSU Leadership Council. Harvey is a graduate of Class 11 of the Oklahoma Agriculture Leadership Program. Jason and wife Melanie (a 2002 OSU accounting graduate) have a 6 month old daughter, Alyse.

Harvey was initiated by Pi in 1993.

*Information courtesy of Oklahoma State University*

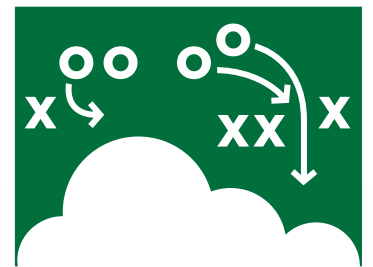
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in Kansas City, Mo.

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- Apply today due to limited space

## MY TEAM



## OUR DREAM

Alpha Gamma Rho | Sigma Alpha  
2013 Leadership Seminars

**FEB. 8-9**.....Washington, DC

**FEB. 15-16**.....Nashville, Tenn.

**FEB. 22-23**.....Reno, Nev.

**MARCH 1-2**.....Milwaukee, Wisc.

Register online at [alphagammarho.org/events](http://alphagammarho.org/events).

[alphagammarho.org/agr-action](http://alphagammarho.org/agr-action)

## Arkansas alumnus named Distinguished Alumnus of the Year



*Russell Black (left), Distinguished Alumnus of the Year for the department of agricultural economics and agribusiness, accepts a framed painting of the Agriculture Building on the University of Arkansas campus from Steve Halbrook, department head.*

On Oct. 25, the University of Arkansas department of agricultural economics and agribusiness honored Arkansas alumnus Russell Black as 2012 Distinguished Alumnus of the Year.

In 1966, Black was one of the first two graduates to receive the Bachelor of Science in Agriculture degree in agricultural business. After serving a few years in the Peace Corps and working for private industries such as the Pillsbury Co. and Tyson Foods Inc., Black and his wife Brenda began an entrepreneurial career in the ornamental horticulture industry in 1974. The Blacks, together

with their two sons, have owned and operated Westwood Gardens Inc., since 1982.

With four stores in Northwest Arkansas, Westwood Gardens provides full-service garden centers featuring greenhouse-grown annuals, perennials, hanging baskets and poinsettias. The company also provides an interior plant design and maintenance service to restaurants, offices and homes.

Black has received several national awards including the Top 100 Revolutionary Garden Centers and Top 50 Horticulture Leadership

Award, and he was named one of Alpha Gamma Rho's Brothers of the Century in 2004. Black has served as Alpha Iota Chapter's adviser for 23 years and serves on the Department of Horticulture Review Board.

"We present this award to Russell Black in recognition of his career of leadership and service for Arkansas agriculture and in appreciation of his dedication to the University of Arkansas and the Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness," said Steve Halbrook, department head.

Black was initiated by Alpha Iota in 1963.  
*Information courtesy of the University of Arkansas*



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## AGR Networking Reception in Louisville, Ky.

The Fraternity will be at the National Farm Machinery Show at the Kentucky Exposition Center in Louisville, Ky. Feb. 13 through 16 in South Hall B. Booth numbers have not been assigned, so look for Alpha Gamma Rho's flag flying high over the booth.

We are especially excited to announce the Alpha Gamma Rho Networking Reception to be held at the show location, Thursday, Feb. 14, beginning at 5 p.m. Eastern. Many companies will want to participate in this event. Undergraduates and younger

alumni looking for career opportunities and internships should bring resumes and be prepared to meet some of the most dynamic people and companies in the United States economy.

While every detail has not been confirmed, alumni and companies desiring further information about sponsorships and participation can contact via email [agr.nfms@gmail.com](mailto:agr.nfms@gmail.com). More information will be posted as it's available at [alphagammarho.org/events](http://alphagammarho.org/events).

## AGR Barbecue hosted by TN and KY chapters

The Central Tennessee AGR Alumni Chapter, along with six undergraduate AGR chapters in the Tennessee and Kentucky region, are hosting the inaugural AGR National Barbecue Competition April 12 through 14, 2013 in Lebanon, Tenn.

Barbecue teams will compete in a variety of categories, and the winners will receive \$1,800 in cash and trophies. Both undergraduate and alumni barbecue teams are encouraged to enter. An inaugural "AGR Olympics" event will be held Saturday afternoon.

There will also be a large fundraising dinner on Saturday evening that is open to all AGRs and their guests. The menu is yet-to-be-determined but will likely consist of barbecue and/or a low-country Cajun boil. Ticket prices will be \$20 and will include



an after-dinner live concert.

To register or to get more information visit [agrbbq.com](http://agrbbq.com) or [alphagammarho.org/events](http://alphagammarho.org/events). If you would like to sponsor or volunteer for the event, contact co-chairmen Chad Bradshaw at (615) 708-8307 ([chadbradshaw@tds.net](mailto:chadbradshaw@tds.net)) or Robert Elliott at (865) 207-5513 ([robertelliott922@gmail.com](mailto:robertelliott922@gmail.com)).

## Upcoming events...

**Jan. 18-19, 2013:**  
**Recruitment School**  
*Kansas City, Mo.*

**Jan. 25-26, 2013:**  
**Adviser Forum**  
*Kansas City, Mo.*

**Feb. 8-9, 2013:**  
**Leadership Seminar**  
*Washington, D.C.*

**Feb. 14, 2013:**  
**AGR Networking Reception**  
*Louisville, Ky.*  
*(National Farm Machinery Show)*

**Feb. 15-16, 2013:**  
**Leadership Seminar**  
*Nashville, Tenn.*

**Feb. 22-23, 2013:**  
**Leadership Seminar**  
*Reno, Nev.*

**March 1-2, 2013:**  
**Leadership Seminar**  
*Milwaukee, Wisc.*

**March 22-23, 2013:**  
**Recruitment School**  
*Kansas City, Mo.*

**April 12-14, 2013:**  
**AGR Barbecue**  
*Lebanon, Tenn.*