

# AGR NEWS

# SHEAF

THE MAGAZINE OF  
ALPHA GAMMA RHO  
AGRICULTURE FRATERNITY

Summer 2006

## Former Beta Pi Chapter is now Beta Pi Colony at Louisiana Tech University

Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity is proud to announce its newest colony at Louisiana Tech University in Ruston, Louisiana on May 16, 2006. This group, now known as Beta Pi Colony, was formerly the Beta Pi Chapter of AGR. Representing the national fraternity were Director of Chapter Development Thad Koenigsfeld, and Chapter Consultant Josh Wackler. Members of the Alpha Epsilon Chapter at Louisiana State University were present to initiate the 21 undergraduate brothers into the new Beta Pi Colony.

The new adviser for the colony is Jeff Hillard. Jeff is a professor in the Department of Agricultural Sciences. He served as an adviser for Beta Pi when it was still a chapter. The new brothers



New members of the Beta Pi Colony gather for a picture.

are heavily involved in a wide variety of clubs and organizations in the agricultural college and on campus, but they felt that something was still missing in their college experience. After some discussion, they decided AGR could help fill that void, and give them something to truly be proud of. After meeting certain requirements, and recruiting enough young men to qualify, they were ready to make the thought of an AGR colony on their campus a reality.

The original Beta Pi Chapter at Loui-

siana Tech had its charter revoked in May of 2001 due to a variety of reasons, but mostly due to low numbers. This new group hopes to re-establish AGR as the top fraternity on campus, and is aiming to regain the chapter charter very soon.

A group of the new members plan to attend the National Convention in Breckenridge, Colorado this August, and they are excited to participate in even more AGR events in the future.

Congratulations to the gentlemen at Louisiana Tech for their hard work and dedication towards Alpha Gamma Rho. AGR looks forward to seeing this colony develop and grow. The fraternity will eagerly wait for them to achieve chapter status in the near future. Congratulations again to the new Beta Pi Colony of AGR!

## Advisers of Brotherhood

*A mentor, facilitator, visionary, leader, liaison, an advocate, and even more importantly than any of these, an ally in times of adversity.* These are just a few of the roles that our chapter advisers play every day.

Given the constant turnover of our chapter's undergraduates, it is important to have a continuous voice of reason and accountability in our chapters, and our chapter advisers provide just that. With the proper training and the right attitude, the chapter adviser can play more major of a role than anyone else in each chapter, and this is why Alpha Gamma Rho puts so much stock and value into the adviser role.

Often times 18- to 22-year-old kids can be overwhelmed and lost when placed in certain situations where they are forced to face adversity, and without a support system they have nowhere to turn to for help. This is why taking over the role of a chapter adviser can make a huge difference, not just in the best interest of an entire chapter, but also in the lives of countless individual young men.

**Our advisers truly do "make better men," and there are very few things in this world that are more rewarding than that.** And remember that whether we are dealing with a struggling chapter that has a lot of work to do, or with a strong chapter that is constantly trying to "fine tune" areas to take themselves to that next level, the adviser role can unquestionably be the most important influence on a chapter. Those undergraduates with committed and involved advisers are very thankful every day for that ally, and will remember that positive influence for many years to come.

-- Written by: Josh Wackler, AGR Chapter Consultant

### Newest AGR Chapter Advisers

Chapter	Name	Start Date
Ohio State	Michael Arnholt	5/31/2005
Purdue	James Graham	5/31/2005
Iowa State	James Kliebenstein	10/13/2005
Wisconsin - Madison	William Pope	7/12/2005
Nebraska	Kirk Major	1/9/2006
North Carolina State	Thomas Ruffin III	4/12/2006
Auburn	Christopher Alexander	5/31/2005
Auburn	Paul Pinyan	5/31/2005
Colorado State	Charles Mason	6/6/2005
Cal Poly State - SLO	John Cordeiro	8/25/2005
Kansas State	Joshua Roe	12/28/2005
Tennessee - Knoxville	Charles Hall	5/31/2005
New Mexico State	Justin Norsworthy	2/15/2006
Western Kentucky	Jenks Britt	1/1/2006
Wisconsin - River Falls	Philip George	6/1/2005
Southern Illinois	Chet Stuemke	5/3/2006
Wisconsin - Platteville	David Heimerdinger	12/13/2005
Middle Tennessee State	Tony Johnston, non-member	7/27/2005
Ft. Hays State Colony	Kolby Burch	12/5/2005
Ft. Hays State Colony	Gabe Schlickau, Kansas State	12/5/2005
Louisiana Tech Colony	Jeff Hillard	5/16/2006

-- This list includes the advisers that officially began their positions from May 31, 2005 to May 31, 2006.

-- Initiation chapter is listed following the name if different than chapter advising.

-- The picture below is of the June 2006 Adviser Forum attendees. R. Kirby Barrick, at far right, is the Adviser Forum Facilitator.



To all brothers who have served, or are serving as a chapter adviser, **thank you.** The time, dedication, hard work, and thought you give to your chapters and this organization is greatly appreciated by your fraternity.

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# 2006 Hall of Fame Inductees

Alpha Gamma Rho is proud to announce the 2006 Hall of Fame inductees. These four will receive the fraternity's highest honor in Breckenridge, Colorado on August 15 at the 2006 National Convention. Alpha Gamma Rho Hall of Fame now includes 49 members of Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity with this year's four inductees.



**Zane Akins** became a member of the Theta Chapter at the University of Missouri in 1959. He graduated from the university with a bachelor's of science degree in agriculture. Zane has served as AGR Regional Vice President, Grand President, served on the National Board of Directors, conducted participative leadership workshops for advisers, facilitated the fraternity's Century Two Strategic Plan, facilitated many chapter strategic planning sessions, and assisted with many strategic decisions in the progress of this fraternity.

Zane is currently a personal financial assistant, management consultant, and volunteer. He is also a real estate agent and investor. His career since graduation has included being part of a dairy farming partnership in Missouri, and an artificial insemination technician for NOBA, Inc., in Ohio. Between 1966 and 1990 he was employed by the Holstein Association of America; first as program director for the state of Wisconsin, then Chief Executive Officer in 1978. He was the principle of Zane Akins and Associates; Chairman and CEO of Anitech Identifications Systems, Inc.; Regional Manager of Primerica Financial Services, Inc.; Vice President of Earthwide Systems, Inc.; partner of A&S Associates, LTD.; and president and chairman of National Integrated Technologies, Inc.

Zane is an AGR Brother of the Century award recipient. He has been honored by many other associations and organizations, and served on many committees. Zane married Kay Cowen in August of 1963. They have three children and four grandchildren, and reside in The Villages, Florida.



**Bobby Duck** became a charter member of the Alpha Upsilon Chapter at the University of Tennessee-Martin in 1966. Bobby was one of the 'Founding 20' of the chapter's student group that organized the colony for the Alpha Upsilon Chapter. Bobby received his bachelor's of science degree in agriculture in 1961, master's degree in agronomy in 1963, and Ph.D. in agronomy in 1964. Bobby has served as the adviser for Alpha Upsilon Chapter from 1966 to 1971 and 1987 to 1999. He was a workshop facilitator for five leadership seminars, chairman of the workshop "Rituals and Values" at the 1994 national convention, and workshop facilitator at the 1996 and 1998 national conventions. He also served as a member of the national task forces on the Revision of the Ritual, Liability Insurance, and Improvement of Leadership Seminars.

Currently Bobby is a professor emeritus at the University of Tennessee-Martin. His career has included serving as an assistant professor at the University of Florida; assistant dean for the college of agriculture, assistant professor, associate professor, and professor, at the University of Tennessee-Martin. He has served on numerous committees on departmental, school, campus and UT system levels. He is author or co-author of 112 publications. Bobby has also taught thousands of students in diverse courses during 1966 to present; many have subsequently excelled in graduate studies and the agriculture industry.

Bobby is one of AGRs Brother of the Century award recipients, and received the Outstanding Chapter Adviser award in 1990, 1994, and 1998. He has also received many other honors from universities he has been affiliated with and the agriculture and academic industry. Bobby is married with one daughter. He resides in Martin, Tennessee.



**Bob Oehrtman** became a member of the Beta Chapter at Ohio State University in 1958. He earned his bachelor's of science degree in agriculture in 1961 at Ohio State University; his master's of science degree in agriculture economics in 1964 at Oregon State University, and his Ph.D. in economics in 1970 at Iowa State University.

Bob began teaching and research in the Agriculture Economics Department at Oklahoma State in February of 1970. Since then he has become tenured and continues to teach and perform research including authoring over 150 research papers in various areas of economics. He is currently at a 46 percent teaching and 54 percent research position - including Commodity Future Markets, Agriculture Marketing and Prices, Internships in Agriculture Economics and special problems - for the university.

Since 1979 Bob has served as Pi Chapter Adviser at Oklahoma State University. He has also served as co-chair for numerous national convention committees. Bob is an AGR Brother of the Century, and was awarded the Outstanding Adviser Award in 1983, 2000, and 2002. He also was awarded the Outstanding AGR Alumni Award for Pi Chapter in 1986. His honors and recognition are represented from Boy Scouts of America, Brotherhood Member of the Order of the Arrow (a Scoutings Honor Society), Eagle Scouts, along with agriculture, agriculture economic, and teaching industries. Bob has survived his wife, Anne. They had two boys, Greg and Mike. Bob resides in Stillwater, Oklahoma.



**Jerry Puppe** became a member of the Epsilon Chapter at North Dakota State in 1957. He received his bachelor's of science degree in agriculture education in 1960, and his master's of science degree in public administration in 1974 at Southern Illinois University. As an alumnus he has served as a Founder's Day speaker, facilitated long-term chapter planning throughout the fraternity, served as Grand President, National Board Director, Housing Resources Trust Board Trustee, Regional Vice President; has been active in the Washington, DC, and Kansas City alumni chapters; served on the Investment, Scholarship and Fraternity History committees; was a Brotherhood Program trainer, and a VIP fund raiser.

Since college Jerry was an International Farm Youth Exchange Delegate from North Dakota to Lebanon in 1960; an Army Officer at Governors Island, New York from 1961 to 1963; and a vocational agriculture instructor from 1963 to 1964 in McClusky, North Dakota. The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation of the United States Department of Agriculture then employed him from 1964 to 1993, primarily in Washington, DC and Kansas City. He was vice president of National Crop Insurance Services located in Overland Park, Kansas from 1993 to 2004.

Jerry's honors from the fraternity include Outstanding Alumnus for Epsilon, Washington, DC Alumni, and Chicago Alumni chapters; Epsilon Chapter Hall of Fame inductee, and Brother of the Century. Through his years of work and service to the agriculture and agriculture insurance industries, Jerry has earned many honors and served on many committees, including on the FFA Sponsors Board. Jerry married Marsha McNickle in April 1966. They have one son and one grandchild. Jerry and Marsha reside in Leawood, Kansas.

**Celebrate 100 Years of AGR by purchasing the  
Alpha Gamma Rho  
Celebrating A Century of Success.**

**For more information contact Amanda Erichsen**  
Phone: 816-891-9200 ext.11 Fax: 816-891-9401  
E-mail: [Amanda@AlphaGammaRho.org](mailto:Amanda@AlphaGammaRho.org)

## The New Web Site of Alpha Gamma Rho

As we move into our second century of Alpha Gamma Rho, it is important to keep our members informed using the tools and resources that suit them best, while continuing to advance with technology. As a member of Alpha Gamma Rho I am happy to share with you the features of our new web site at [www.alphagammarho.org](http://www.alphagammarho.org) that will help current and potential members learn more about our fraternity.

Brothers who visit the new web site will be able to navigate through a user-friendly web site filled with all the information they will ever need about Alpha Gamma Rho. This will allow each chapter to refer potential members to the web site and learn more about the fraternity we are all proud to be part of.

As a member you will have access to a member's only area. Members will be able to create a personal profile, interact with other members with a message board and even learn about jobs offered by members across the country through the internal job posts. We encourage you to visit the web site now and register by using the member register link!

More than 20 AGR chapters have used the opportunity of these same features with their own chapter web sites. If you have questions or comments about the new web site, or the chapter web sites, please contact Amanda Erichsen, Communications Coordinator, via e-mail at [Amanda@AlphaGammaRho.org](mailto:Amanda@AlphaGammaRho.org) or via phone at 816-891-9200, ext. 11. **Please visit the web site soon - we hope you will find this resource easy to navigate and enjoy!!**

**Written by:** Jeremy Turner, Phi Chapter Adviser  
[Jeremy@chaptercommunications.com](mailto:Jeremy@chaptercommunications.com)

### ALPHA GAMMA RHO FRATERNITY

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### RECRUIT MORE MEMBERS CHAPTER RECRUITMENT WORKSHOPS

For more information, please contact Josh Wackler or Thad Koenigsfeld at the AGR Home Office by phone: 816-891-9200 or e-mail: [Wack@AlphaGammaRho.org](mailto:Wack@AlphaGammaRho.org), or [Thad@AlphaGammaRho.org](mailto:Thad@AlphaGammaRho.org)



# Head for the Hills



**Gear up for an inspiring opportunity to get motivated, increase bonds of brotherhood, and enjoy The Journey Higher**

Colorado is the roof of the continent and the fertile fields that help feed the nation. No other place offers such an enchanting mixture of mountains, plateaus, plains, orchards, vineyards, lakes and rivers.

Colorado's purple mountain majesties will be an inspiring background August 13 - 16 as Alpha Gamma Rho meets for its 59th National Convention in Breckenridge, Colorado.

### Friendships Take Root

You'll cultivate friendships while grazing on Colorado delicacies to begin your mountain top adventure during the Colorado Experience – the opening reception at Riverwalk Center. AGRs from across the country will learn about Colorado's diverse and productive agriculture while enjoying some of the state's finest food and beverage.

The evening event will be laid out in an outdoor area representing the state of Colorado. Attendees will travel down the roads of Colorado to visit various areas of the state to learn about the geographic areas where agricultural products are grown while filling their plate with Colorado delicacies.

An ear of Olathe Sweet Corn, a cut of Weld County beef and Rocky Ford melon are sure to leave a lasting impression on your taste buds. In addition to delicious foods, AGRs will have a chance to try their hand at Colorado recreational sports ranging from riding a mechanical bull to participating in hunting simulations.

### Planting The Seed

A roster of talented speakers and presenters will educate, entertain and motivate you during convention sessions. David Okerlund kicks off the convention with a speech entitled *The Margins of Greatness*. A member of the International Speakers Hall of Fame, Okerlund has taught debate and speech at Oxford University and has won more speaking contests than any other active professional speaker.

If you're looking for an internship or a job, you won't want to miss Brad Karsh's *Confessions of a Recruiting Director*. After spending 15 years as Vice President of Talent Acquisition at Leo Burnett USA, Karsh founded JobBound to apply his knowledge in helping people break into the job markets.

A leading expert in resume writing and interviewing, Karsh has been featured on *CNN's Paula Zahn Now*, *CNBC*, *Headline News* and has been quoted in publications ranging from the *Wall Street Journal* to *Fortune Magazine*. Speaking of jobs, several companies including agricultural giant Monsanto will have recruiters on site to visit with AGRs interested in internships and full time employment. Bring your resume and be prepared to visit with potential employers during the convention.

### Foraging At Workshops

In addition to keynote speakers, convention goers will have the option to participate in engaging workshops and panel discussions. Glenn Stith, Kentucky, Vice President of Monsanto will discuss his AGR experience and the trends and opportunities in agricultural biotechnology. Mike Jackson, Purdue, President of Agri Business Group and former AGR Grand President will share his perspective on founding and building an entrepreneurial business.

Additional breakouts will address issues ranging from coaching and performance management to recruiting. Tom Davis, Purdue, Group Publisher of Meredith Corporation, will help AGRs hone their recruiting skills. Participants will have the option of choosing between several other breakout sessions.

The program will provide ample opportunity to deepen your spiritual walk and to improve your ability to not just make a living, but to also make a life. Dr. Chris Leland of Focus on the Family will encourage brothers on their spiritual journey during the vespers service. Lauren Libby, Kansas State, Chief Operating Officer of Navigators will ask brothers to think about ways they can apply their time, talents and treasures to callings and causes greater than themselves.

In addition attendees will enjoy the musical talents of the Kaufman Brothers, also brothers of Beta Phi Chapter at the University of Idaho. Come prepared for some toe-tapping music as the brothers play their special style of country music.

### Bid And Buy

Convention attendees can cultivate funds for the AGR Educational Foundation with auction purchases from the convention live and silent auctions. The best

part, of course, is you reap the rewards by purchasing items - ranging from condominiums and sculptures to vacation weekends and hunting trips.

Every auction should have variety, and odds are, you're looking for a great odyssey - like some of the following: a luxury condominium at the Lake of the Ozarks; a three-day weekend at Lake Arrowhead, California; a weekend sailing trip on Lake Erie; a vacation condo in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico; an elk hunting trip in Colorado; or sculptures by Remington and Navarro.

Like Colorado's majestic mountains, items up for bid in both the silent and live auction are anything but trivial. And, yes, all the items listed above will be auctioned off at this year's convention.

Because of the many items, it is impossible to detail them all. Among the many items offered, consider these two as examples of the value of the auction items:

The Cabo San Lucas condominiums is a week stay in a one-bedroom top floor ocean-side suite that sleeps four. The purchaser is invited to participate in the Bisbee Black & Blue, the world's richest fishing tournament. Located close to the downtown nightlife, beach and marina, Cabo San Lucas is one of the most sought after destinations in Mexico.

The sculpture by Chris Navarro – 20% Chance Of Flurries – is a small version of a monumental bronze paying tribute to Colorado ranchers and farmers located on the campus of Colorado State University.

### Odyssey Of A Lifetime

There's much more to this Rocky Mountain convention. There's the spectacular scenery inviting you outdoors to go hiking, biking, fishing, sailing or golfing. You will enjoy an adventure of a lifetime under the cool, humidity-free skies. The purple mountain majesties will not only be your backdrop, they will be your playground and your inspiration.

If you haven't done so already, plan now to attend AGR's 59th National Convention. **Your fraternity awaits The Journey Higher and is holding your front-row seat.**



**Pictured at left:** Beaver Run Resort.  
**Pictured in center:** David Okerlund, keynote speaker.



For more information about the 2006 National Convention visit the AGR web site at [www.alphagammarho.org](http://www.alphagammarho.org).



## Top 10 Reasons to Journey Higher



However you seek inspiration, there will never be a better place for enjoying the brotherhood of AGR than the 59th National Convention in Breckenridge, Colorado, August 13-16. Here are the Top 10 reasons to "Take it to the Top":

**1. Location. Colorado. Why it's tops:** With an unparalleled blend of culture and scenery, Colorado will satisfy your every need. Bring the family for an adventure they'll never forget. Don't hesitate make your reservations now.

**2. Superb Accommodations. Beaver Run Resort & Conference Center. Why it's tops:** a Premier Resort with a magnificent mountain setting. Choose from single guest rooms to specialty suites and two, three and four bedroom condominiums. Superb conference facilities will make convention sessions special. AGR discount rates are available for reservations made before July 13.

**3. The Town. Breckenridge. Why it's tops:** a 145-year-old town with Victorian era buildings at 9,600 feet elevation. The town is known for an abundance of incomparable shopping, dining and nightlife. More than 400 boutiques, galleries, bistros, salons and restaurants offer a variety of choices for every taste and budget.

**4. Opening reception. The Colorado Experience. Why it's tops:** An evening event at Riverwalk Center will be laid out in an outdoor area representing the state of Colorado. Attendees will learn

about geographic areas where agricultural products are grown, while filling their plate with Colorado delicacies that are sure to leave a lasting impression on your taste buds. Try your hand at Colorado recreational sports ranging from riding a mechanical bull to hunting simulations.

**5. Speakers. David Okerlund and Lauren Libby. Why they're tops:** Okerlund has taught debate and speech at Oxford University and has won more speaking contests than any other active professional speaker. Libby, Kansas State, Chief Operating Officer of Navigators, will ask brothers to think about ways they can apply their time, talents and treasures to callings and causes greater than themselves.

**6. Getting a job. Recruiters and speakers. Why they're tops:** Several companies including agricultural giant Monsanto will have recruiters on site to visit with AGRs interested in internships and full time employment. Glenn Stith, Kentucky, Vice President of Monsanto, will discuss his AGR experience and the trends and opportunities in agriculture biotechnology. Brad Karsh of JobBound, and other AGR leaders in the agriculture industry and our fraternity, will also help attendees hone their recruiting and entrepreneurial skills.

**7. Auction. Raising funds for AGR Educational Foundation. Why it's tops:** You'll reap the rewards of purchasing a variety of items while plowing funds back into AGR. Among items you can bid and buy: A luxury condominium at the Lake of the Ozarks;

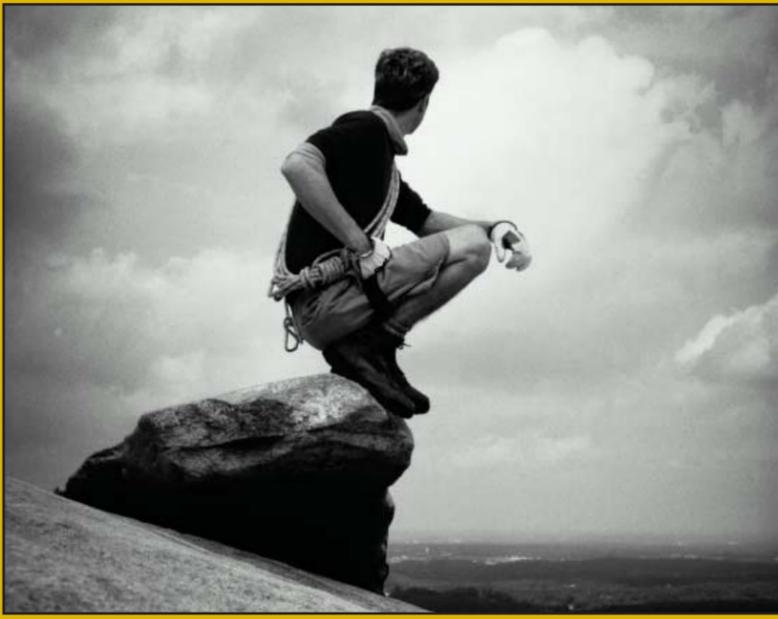
a three-day weekend at Lake Arrowhead, California; a weekend sailing trip to Lake Erie; a vacation condominium in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico; an elk hunting trip in Colorado; and sculptures by Remington and Navarro.

**8. Tours. Three fabulous tours offered. Why they're tops:** Get a taste of Colorado agriculture at the Pre-Convention Agriculture Tour. Take the Georgetown Loop Railroad Tour while gazing out from open-air or covered cars at the rugged mountains going by. End your Journey Higher with the Post-Convention West Slope Water Tour. You'll explore, enjoy and learn about the state's legendary water system while traveling through areas of unparalleled beauty.

**9. Weather. A break from summer's heat and humidity. Why it's tops:** The air is so fragrant, the sky so blue. Breckenridge's spectacular mountain setting has a humidity-free average temperature of 70 degrees, making it one of the most popular summertime destinations in the nation.

**10. Climbing higher. A lifetime of memories. Why it's tops:** This convention is about getting to the top – *a journey from mediocrity to greatness. Every meal: a banquet. Every moment: a memory.* World class hiking, climbing, sightseeing and fishing are just some of the experiences you'll remember the rest of your life.

**Convention articles written by:** Glen Richardson, Arizona State



# SHAR CE THE CA

## Two Brothers Target Leadership With Campaign Gift

### Van Wert Funds Future Leaders



David W. Van Wert, Iowa State, is from an AGR Family: "Up in Franklin County, Iowa, the AGR families got together back then as they still do to talk about agriculture and Alpha Gamma Rho. So, as a youngster, I was surrounded in the community by my Dad and other AGR leaders. It was only natural that my brother, his son, and I would all join AGR in Ames."

David notes that AGR continues today to add men of integrity, intelligence, enthusiasm and devotion across the country. He adds, "The leadership material is already there. AGR just needs to help shape and mold it as it has done for so many of us over the years. I am pleased to pledge \$25,000 towards the leadership pillar of the Century Two Campaign for those very leadership building efforts."

No stranger to leadership, David continues to serve on the Iowa State University Foundation Board, and is a past President of the Educational Foundation of Alpha Gamma Rho. In fact, he was one of the AGR foundation leaders realizing the need for a first-ever capital campaign to fund programs instead of only brick and mortar for the fraternity. Other boards he's chaired include American Meat Institute Pork Group and the North Colorado Medical Center Foundation. He currently makes his home in both Arizona and Colorado.

David has also served as Chief Executive Officer of Van Wert Associates, President of Townsends, Inc., and President of the Swift Independent (ConAgra) Pork Division. He is one of AGR's Brothers of the Century, Alpha Zeta Centennial Honor Roll, and Outstanding Iowa State Young Alumnus, along with numerous other honors and awards.

"AGR has a strong footing as we enter this new century," says David, "but we need to develop even more volunteer leaders on both the local university and national levels to take us where we need to go down the road. I encourage more brothers to volunteer for leadership roles in our great fraternity. There are few opportunities more rewarding than supporting the hundreds of AGR undergraduates as they actually develop and grow their leadership capabilities through their experiences in this stronger than ever social-professional fraternity. We can make a difference for many young men in the years to come."



**Left to right:** Tim Menard, David Van Wert, Cathie Van Wert, Sally Van Wert (David's wife). David & Sally recently attended the Fairygodmother Foundation 2006 Gala (in Chicago) which honored Cathie (David's daughter) with the Founder's Award for her service to the Foundation.

For more information on these gift types or other unique approaches, please contact James Ferrell, Director of Development, at the Home Office or by e-mail at [James@AlphaGammaRho.org](mailto:James@AlphaGammaRho.org) or by telephone at 816-891-9200, extension 21.

These gifts are great examples of how one can designate their funds to one specific cornerstone or for unrestricted use in the Century Two Campaign. More of the various gift opportunities available will be featured in future issues of *SICKLE & SHEAF*.

### Belden Entrusts Leaders to Grow AGR



When Sanford (Sandy) Belden, Purdue, served on the Housing Resources Trust Board (formerly Chapter House Loan Fund), he saw the national fraternity in action: "I witnessed chapter after chapter coming before our group and making a strong case to utilize a portion of the pool of resources our strong national effort had put together to foster better housing opportunities for our fraternity. I was impressed with the size and reach that AGR has in supporting strong, vital chapters which in turn makes every other chapter stronger and more vital."

It is with that experience in mind that Sandy is committing an unrestricted gift of \$30,000 to the Century Two Campaign for AGR to continue this national history of doing as a group what chapters cannot do alone: "Through these agricultural ties and shared interest in our profession we have built, by far, the best national agricultural fraternity and continue to attract great national leadership. I want our national leaders to have access to sufficient funds to keep the AGR tradition of innovative programming alive and well for generations to come."

Sandy personally realizes the financial backing needed to operate successfully in ever increasing competitive times. His career includes financial leadership positions as Chief Executive Officer of a New York Stock Exchange traded banking company with 130 branches and \$4.4 billion in assets (Community Bank System, Inc., of Syracuse, New York) and manager of the Eastern Region for Rabobank Nederland, New York City, New York (a \$500 billion banking business). Prior to these positions Sandy served in leadership positions with First Bank System in Minneapolis and Farm Credit System (Michigan, St. Louis, FCA, and Springfield, Massachusetts).

"I truly believe in Alpha Gamma Rho," Sandy affirms, "because this kid, from a little high school in Massachusetts with a class of only 32, wound up at Purdue University half way across the country. Were it not for AGR, I might have gotten lost in the thousands. Instead, I became a part of something incredible. AGR helped me with the academic, social and professional skills that enabled me to have a strong foundation to build a wonderful career. And maybe even more importantly, I would not have met my wife of 42 years, Betsy, if it were not for AGR at Purdue."

As Sandy retires this month to his original family farm homestead in Massachusetts, he realizes that it is pay back time. Time to pay back with even more volunteering and financial support of the fraternity that gave "this farm boy" opportunities to get a jump-start to success and happiness. Sandy realizes that Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity continues to do the same for hundreds more young men in this new century.



Sandy Belden gathers with his wife, Betsy, for a picture.

# THE JOURNEY CENTURY TWO CAMPAIGN FOR AGR

## The Four Cornerstones of Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity

### LEADERSHIP

AGRs are known for leadership, whether it's in the chapter house, on campus, in the community, or while working in the high-tech agri-sciences industry or serving our country. The goal of the Leadership Cornerstone is to create an endowment fund that will continue this legacy, supporting the life-long leadership skills in individual members and improving leadership capabilities within the Fraternity itself.

### SCHOLARSHIP

Sometimes today's college men lose sight of the principal reason for attending college: to graduate with a degree. AGR is proud to say that our individual members continue to perform well in college. In fact, many of our chapters exceed the all-men's average at their school. But being "average" never was the AGR way. Our Fraternity believes that the AGR experience should encourage and support - not distract from - scholarship. With our renewed emphasis on membership development, AGR continues to lead the pack in scholastic development.

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

It is certain that Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity's unique position as a social and professional fraternity has been a key to the organization's historic success. While many fraternities claim to offer "membership for life," AGR delivers on the promise. AGR alumni in the food, bio-products and environmental science industries provide an unparalleled source of professional networking opportunities that can span a lifetime. This large and increasingly diverse alumni base can offer invaluable contacts - and can open many doors of opportunity - to AGR's aspiring young professionals and seasoned veterans alike.



THE CAMPAIGN FOR AGR

### LIFE SKILLS

AGR's Purpose calls for us to surround our members with influences encouraging the development of better mental, social, moral and physical qualities. The significance of this calling has never been greater. In today's world, the young members of AGR face a tremendous challenge in their quest to become better men. They must stand against the current of a popular culture where social intemperance, political corruption, and corporate malfeasance seem the norm rather than the exception.

## Your Gift. You're in Charge.

For the first time ever, the National Educational Foundation of Alpha Gamma Rho is conducting a Capital Campaign solely dedicated to innovative, chapter-level initiatives to strengthen collegiate chapters and individual members. Your gift can go in its entirety to the chapter(s) you wish to support or to the cornerstone(s) you wish to support: Professional Development, Scholarship, Leadership, Life Skills. Designate it all for one chapter, one cornerstone or select a portion of it for the national leadership to responsibly utilize. It is up to you.

**It is your legacy. You are in charge.**

### Initial Campaign Gifts Set the Stage

One by one, national and local leaders of the Fraternity are stepping up to commit to The Campaign for AGR. Since Chairman Lemon sounded the charge, more than 109 alumni have committed with 40 of those gifts exceeding \$10,000 each. A growing organization of volunteers is gearing up to take the Century Two effort to thousands more AGRs all over the world. Watch for your invitation to join the journey.

### Capital Campaign Cabinet

Gene Lemon - Campaign Chair  
Bill Boehm  
Kirby Barrick  
Ted Priebe

Rick Carpenter  
Joe Coffey  
Bernie Staller  
Phil Josephson

James Ferrell

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

# On The Move



**Jeff Adkinsson, Western Illinois**, received the honor of Distinguished Member of the Illinois Society of Association Executives. The association's top professional service award recognizes a member for outstanding leadership and achievement in association management.

Jeff is the Executive Director of the Grain and Feed Association in Illinois. He has served the association for 18 years, and as its executive director since 1999. Jeff has been involved in numerous community and agriculture industry organizations.

Jeff became a member of the Alpha Tau Chapter at Western Illinois University in 1982. He graduated the university magna cum laude with a bachelor's of science degree in agriculture education. Jeff is a Brother of the Century and received the Grand President's Award in 2003.



**Lee Allenstein, Iowa State**, has been named the 2006 National Dairy Shrine Guest of Honor. The award is the highest bestowed by the organization with over 17,000 members nationwide. The award has been bestowed every year since 1949 and will be formally presented at the 2006 World Dairy Expo this October.

Allenstein's mark on the dairy industry goes deep, ranging from 30 years of writing columns for Hoard's Dairyman, to serving as president of the American Association of Bovine Practitioners and receiving their Practitioner of the Year Award in 1982. He also served on the American Veterinary Medical Association's Council on Education, and taught at the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Veterinary Medicine from 1987 to 1994.

Allenstein received numerous teaching awards over the years, including the SCAVMA Clinical Teacher Award from the American Veterinary Medical Association which is the top teaching honor in the nation for a veterinarian. Just this past year, the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Veterinary-Medicine named their dairy teaching herd after the veterinarian. The herd is currently being used for 28 different courses at the University. Lee became a member of the Eta Chapter at Iowa State in 1946.



**Russ Bragg, Tennessee - Martin**, has been named product communications manager by Dow AgroSciences for the U.S. Northern Crops business. Bragg will work with the company's communications agency, Bader Rutter & Associates, and marketing specialists in the creation and execution of brand messaging and tactics for Mycogen® brand seeds, Herculex® Insect Protection traits and crop protection products for corn, soybeans, small grains and other specialty crops. Bragg most recently served as a sales representative in southwestern and central North Dakota.

Russ became a member of the Alpha Upsilon Chapter at the University of Tennessee - Martin in 1998. He earned a degree in agricultural business at UTM and a master's degree in agricultural economics from Purdue University.



**J. Carlton Courter, III, Virginia Tech**, Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, was elected president of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) during the group's annual meeting in Cooperstown, New York on September 21. His term began September 2005, and will end at the NASDA meeting in Norfolk, Virginia, September 2006.

Carlton became a member of the Beta Eta Chapter at Virginia Tech University in 1976. He is a 1979 graduate with a major in dairy science and minor agriculture economics. He and his wife have one son.

He worked as a dairy fieldsman in Southwest Virginia for a regional milk marketing cooperative. He

then joined the Virginia Agribusiness Council, as director of member relations, then as executive director and finally president, serving as the chief staff officer for the statewide agricultural group for ten years. In 1994, Carlton was appointed commissioner of the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

A former director of the Virginia Council of Farmer Cooperatives, Commissioner Carlton is also past president of the Southern Association of State Departments of Agriculture, Virginia Society of Association Executives and the Friends of the Industry of Agriculture.



**Tom Davis, Purdue**, has been named Group Publisher of Meredith Corporation. In this new role he will oversee all marketing and editorial operations of the WOOD, Successful Farming, and Living the Country Life brands and

the web sites supporting those products. Tom joined Meredith in 1978 and most recently served as Publisher of Successful Farming, a multi-media brand focusing on agricultural communications for farm and rural families.

Tom became a member of the Delta Chapter at Purdue University in 1974 and received his bachelor's degree in Agriculture Economics. His AGR accomplishments include the Grand Presidents Award and Brother of the Century honoree. He is the Vice Grand President for Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity. Recently the National Agri-Marketing Association named him the NAMA Marketer of the Year. He has earned many honors and served the associations of NAMA, FFA, and other agriculture industry organizations.

Tom and his wife, Sandy, reside in Des Moines, Iowa. Their son, Adam, is a senior at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.



**Michael Haggerty, Michigan State**, is now the events, facilities and marketing manager of the athletics department at Ferris State University. Michael was an internship as an assistant to the head coach in both softball and women's

volleyball for one season at Michigan State University. He was the coordinator of the Big Ten Cross Country Championships along with the NCAA Division I Regional Field Hockey Tournament and the volleyball tournaments, which Michigan State hosted.

A 2000 graduate of Michigan State with a bachelor's degree in animal science and agricultural-business management, Haggerty is currently working on completing his coursework for a master's of arts degree in athletic administration from Central Michigan. He holds membership in the National Association of Collegiate Marketing Administrators and the Michigan Collegiate Football Officials Association. Michael became a member of the Tau Chapter at Michigan State University in 1995.

**Alan Koepke, Wisconsin - Madison**, has been honored by the Professional Dairy Producers of Wisconsin (PDPW) at their Annual Business Conference in Madison, Wisconsin. Alan was a founding member of the PDPW, and the PDPW Education Foundation, he has also served as chairman for the organization's Public Policy Committee since 1998.

Alan became a member of the Iota Chapter at the University of Wisconsin - Madison in 1960. He graduated from the university in 1963 with a degree in agricultural engineering. Upon graduation he returned to Koepke Farms, Inc. where he farms today with his brothers, James and David, and his nephew, John. Together they farm 800 acres of crops, milk 320 cows, and have a rolling herd average of more than 30,000 pounds.

Alan is a past president and vice president of the Wisconsin Holstein Association and was the first chairperson of the Dairy Center for Profitability Advisory Committee. He has been a member of the UW-Madison Dairy Science Department Advisory Committee, Wisconsin Electric Power Company's Consumer Advisory Council, and a 4-H dairy leader. Currently he is a member of the Wisconsin Agricultural and Life Science Alumni Association board of directors. Alan also

received the University of Wisconsin College of Agricultural and Life Sciences Honorary recognition Award of Distinction and was honored as Master Agriculturalist. Alan has served as alumni director for the Iota Chapter since 1998. Alan and his wife, Mary, have three children, Ann, Laura and Jane.



**Tom Lyon, Iowa State**, is inducted to the Cooperative Hall of Fame. Established by the National Cooperative Business Association, the Cooperative Hall of Fame honors those distinguished individuals whose contributions to cooperative business

have been genuinely heroic. These members enhance cooperative enterprise and the advancement of the principles of cooperation.

Tom has devoted his work to building cooperatives for the future. He formed the first U.S. holding cooperative, Cooperative Resources International (CRI), a business model that preserved member ownership and equity through cooperation among cooperatives. CRI is a holding cooperative involved in cattle breeding, dairy records, and livestock marketing. Tom retired in 2002 as Chief Executive Officer of CRI. He also created the "blueprint" for CooperationWorks!, the national network of co-op development centers and served on the task force that made it a reality. Another organization he helped create is the Cooperative Development Services, an organization providing technical assistance for co-op start-ups. An example of one of these start-ups is Kids in the Kountry, a rural co-op daycare center for which he gathered money to launch. Today, it is a successful cooperative and often used as a model for others.

Tom is also a strong advocate of co-op education. He was heavily involved in the University of Wisconsin system, often building links between scholars and co-op leaders. He was a trustee for both The Cooperative Foundation and the Graduate Institute of Cooperative Leadership. To ensure generations of highly qualified cooperative practitioners, he led the creation of the Ralph K. Morris Foundation scholarship program.

Tom became a member of the Eta Chapter at Iowa State University in 1959. He graduated with a bachelor's of science degree in dairy science in 1962. His public service included president of the University of Wisconsin Board of Regents, and representation on numerous state governmental commissions and USDA panel. He and wife Barbara have three children.



**Don McCaskill, Arkansas**, has been named the 2006 Outstanding Alumnus of the Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences at the University of Arkansas. Dean Greg Weidemann presented the award at the Bumpers College commencement program May 13. Don is the Vice President for Research at Riceland Foods in Stuttgart, Arkansas.

Don became a member of the Alpha Iota Chapter at the University of Arkansas in 1966. He earned his bachelor's of science degree in agriculture, and a master's degree in food science from the University of Arkansas.

Don joined Riceland Foods in Stuttgart as manager of rice research and development in 1981, became director of research and development with technical responsibility for all Riceland products in 1996, and was named vice president for research in 2001. He has been an instrumental in development of a patented rice parboiling process; the creation of new rice-based consumer, foodservice and food ingredient products; and development of markets for rice bran oil.

Don helped organize the Bumpers College Alumni Society as a charter member of the board of directors. He is a member and leader of several organizations and councils in the food industry for Arkansas and the country. Don has been married to Linda King McCaskill for 36 years. They have two daughters, Wynne McCaskill Waddell, and Ashlee McCaskill, and one granddaughter, Emma Waddell.



**Ken Morrison, Missouri**, has been named Managing Director of Doane Advisory Services effective April 24, 2006. Vance Publishing Corp. acquired Doane Agricultural Services in October of 2005 and incorporated it into its food360° division, based in Lenexa, Kansas. The

economic advisory products, that Morrison will be heading, are marketed under the name Doane Advisory Services.

Ken spent more than 25 years with Cargill Incorporated in a variety of roles. Prior to leaving Cargill he was Co-Managing Director-Asia of Renessen, a Cargill joint venture where he was charged with developing and marketing a proprietary line of nutrient-dense feed grains and oilseeds within Asia.

Ken became a member of the Theta Chapter of the University of Missouri in 1973. He received his bachelor's of science degree in agricultural economics from the University of Missouri in 1976. Ken and his wife, Helene, reside in Clayton, Missouri.



**Scott Mortimer, Iowa State**, will succeed Tom Davis, Purdue, as Publisher of Successful Farming, Living the Country Life, and Agriculture Online. Scott most recently served as the magazine's National Sales Manager. He joined Meredith in 1992 and has held the positions of

Branch and Regional Manager.

Scott is a 1987 graduate in agricultural business from Iowa State University. He became a member of the Eta Chapter at Iowa State University in 1984. Scott is a Brother of the Century and past president of the Eta Chapter alumni board. He is also the past president of the Iowa Chapter of NAMA. Scott, his wife, Susanne, and daughter, Kelsey, live in Cumming, Iowa.



**John Niemann, Kansas State**, was promoted to Associate Vice President, Business Manager at Cargill Meat Solutions Corporation, Wichita, Kansas. John has been with Cargill for over four years and recently lead an effort

to brand the company's former name, EXCEL, into an everyday business-to-business brand of fresh beef and pork for the foodservice and retail industries. In John's new role, he is responsible for leading the business strategy across Cargill's Ranchers Registry, Excel Fresh Meats and Marketing Services programs.

John also serves as his church's Sports and Recreation Ministry Director, and on the Kansas FFA Foundation Board of Trustees. He recently received the Cargill Cares Volunteer Award for his services with the Kansas FFA Foundation. John and his wife, Jennifer, reside in Andale, Kansas and have three children: two boys and a girl. John became a member of the Alpha Zeta Chapter at Kansas State University in 1989.



**Ray Ropp, Illinois**, was honored by the University of Illinois College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences Alumni Association, receiving the association's Award of Merit. The award was presented during the college's Funk Awards April 25, 2006. Ray was

one of six recipients.

Ray is a dairy farmer in Normal, Illinois in partnership with his son Ken. Ray develops registered Jersey cattle. Ray has been president of the Illinois Jersey Cattle Association, the National Milk Producers Federation, and the Land of Lincoln Purebred Cattle Association and director of the Purebred Dairy Cattle Association. He has also served on countless committees and organizations, the Normal Rotary Club, Chamber of Commerce, McLean-Dewitt Regional School Board, Heartland FFA Alumni Association, and Farm Bureau.

Ray became a member of the Alpha Chapter at the University of Illinois during 1961. While noble ruler at the Alpha Chapter he was the initiating officer of the new chapter at the University of Tennessee-Martin and Western Illinois

# On The Move

University. He was also instrumental in forming Beta Delta Chapter at Illinois State University, and was the first chapter adviser. Ray is also an Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity Brother of the Century.

Ray is married to Carol, a retired Math teacher who was the first Sweetheart of the Alpha Chapter. They have two children, Karen and Ken. Ken is also an alumnus of the Alpha Chapter of AGR.



**Robert Satori, Wisconsin – Madison**, was named the 2006 winner of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE) Wisconsin Section Young Engineer Award.

As an engineering manager at Manitowoc Cranes in Manitowoc, Wisconsin,

Bob is responsible for managing a group of 15 engineers in the design and analysis of crawler and mobile cranes. Bob began his engineering career after graduating from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1994 where he earned a bachelor's of science degree in agricultural engineering. He worked as a production engineer and supervisor before joining Manitowoc Crane Group as a mechanical engineer in 1999. He earned a Masters of Engineering at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2004.

Bob became a member of the Iota Chapter in 1990 and later served as noble ruler. He resides in Manitowoc with his wife, Teresa, and daughters Katherine, Grace and Mary.

**Charles Smith, University of Florida**, is one of the five Florida Agriculture Hall of Fame inductees for 2006. The ceremony took place during February. Charles is a founding member of the Florida Agricultural Coalition, a past president of the Florida Federation of Fairs and Livestock Shows, and the Florida Poultry Federation. He is currently serving as executive vice president

of the Florida Poultry Federation and director of the Florida Agriculture Hall of Fame Foundation. He is involved in the State Poultry Executives Association and the American Egg Board.

Charles served the military in the Air Force during the 1940s after graduating high school. After he completed his service in the military he began his collegiate experience at the University of Florida, where he became a member of the Alpha Gamma Chapter in 1951. He graduated from UF with a bachelor's degree in agriculture in 1953. After graduating he accepted a job as an extension agent, later to be promoted to county agent. During 1966 he was elected to the Hernando County Commission and served for 12 years. In 1967 he became general manager of the Hernando Egg Cooperative. Charles was elected to the Florida House of Representatives during 1978 and served until 1992. Charles resides in Brooksville, Florida with his wife Mildred. They have three children, five grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.



**John Stevenson, Ohio State**, has accepted the position as the State Executive Director (SED) for Ohio's Farm Service

Agency (FSA). John previously served as the Pickaway County Commissioner and the in-state Agricultural Liaison for Senator George Voinovich. He worked closely with Ohio farmers, farm organizations, commodity groups and the Negev Foundation in Cleveland. Prior to working with Senator Voinovich, he was appointed by the Ohio Department of Agriculture to be the Chief of the Plant Industry Division.

John has served on the USDA's FSA State

Committee for Ohio and later served as Ohio's SED. As SED, Stevenson administered FSA commodity, conservation and farm loan programs for Ohio farmers. In 1989 through 1993 he worked in Washington, D.C. as the Associate Administrator of FSA. Stevenson also founded the Ohio Corn Growers Association and served as its first President before being elected President of the National Corn Growers Association.

John graduated from Ohio State University with a bachelor's of science degree in animal science. After college he served as a fighter pilot for three years in the United States Air Force. Stevenson returned home to the family farm to produce diversified crops, raise hogs and beef cattle. Still an active pilot, Stevenson resides on the home farm with his wife, Linda. John became an honorary member of the Beta Chapter at Ohio State University in 2004.



**Doug Vail, Arkansas**, accepted the role of corporate strategy leader for Dow AgroSciences, effective April 1. Doug, who served as the U.S. marketing director since 2002 for Dow AgroSciences, will be responsible for leading the development and deployment of the company's strategy with their Strategy Steering Team. Vail, a 25-year veteran of the company, is a native of Stuttgart, Arkansas, and a graduate of the University of Arkansas. Doug became a member of the Alpha Iota Chapter at the University of Arkansas in 1975.

**Larry Van De Valk, Cornell**, was recently awarded the State University of New York Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Professional Service. Larry currently serves as the Director of the LEAD New York Program, a two-year leadership development program for adult professionals working in the food and



agricultural industry. He is a Senior Extension Associate in the Education Department at the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences for Cornell University. Larry

became a member of the Zeta Chapter at Cornell University in 1985.

**Michael Wagner, Ohio State**, received the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) Meritorious Service Award during the Commodity Classic in Anaheim, California. Michael is the executive director of the Ohio Corn Growers Association (OCGA) and Ohio Corn Marketing Program (OCMP). He was recognized for his years of service to the Ohio corn growers and the U.S. corn industry.

Michael has served as executive director of the OCMP and OCGA since 1987. He has helped six state associations get organized. He is also the project manager for the Ohio Renewable Fuels Association. Michael became a member of the Beta Chapter at Ohio State University in 1960. Michael and his wife, Carolyn, reside in Marion, Ohio.

Fortunately many AGR brothers are On The Move; unfortunately there are only eight pages to the *SICKLE & SHEAF*. Please visit the web site at [www.alphagammarho.org](http://www.alphagammarho.org) for information about how these brothers are also On The Move: Richard Ammon, Wisconsin – Madison; Beau Bearnes, Nebraska; Thomas Dietz, New Hampshire; Doug Morehouse, Purdue; Thomas Parry, West Virginia; Burt Rutherford, Colorado State; Joseph Short, Iowa State; Tony Waller, Georgia; Andrew Walmsley, Florida; Taylor Weisensel, Wisconsin - Platteville; Paul Willis, Florida; and Lawrence William York, Wisconsin – River Falls.

## Transitions

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

### Missouri

Chester W. Hill, 1938

### Ohio State

Karl A. Hirzel, Jr., 1956

### Purdue

Richard L. Kohls, 1941

### Iowa State

Wayne J. Simington, 5/19/1935  
Wilbur W. Young, 2/16/1951  
Gail K. Danilson, 4/9/1978

### Wisconsin – Madison

Robert O. Herrmann, 1951

### Nebraska

Lawrence Collins, 1949

### Minnesota

Lee G. Wahlberg, 1948

### North Carolina State

Ray P. Karriker, 1950

### Kentucky

Edward C. Price, III, 1955

### Auburn

James G. Stokes, 1949  
Ted B. Smith, 1960

### Colorado State

Arlyn Klein, 2/10/1935

### West Virginia

Robert M. Spragg, 1949

### Montana State

William Davidson, 1937

### Kansas State

George B. Kocher, 1948

### Arkansas

Jacob R. Phillips, 1948

### Western Kentucky

Gene McElwain, 1966

## Remembering Karl Hirzel, Jr.



Karl Hirzel, Jr., Ohio State, passed away on Wednesday, April 5, 2006. Karl was born in Toledo, Ohio in 1936. He graduated from Onley High School in 1954. He became a member of the Beta Chapter at Ohio State University in 1956. He graduated with a bachelor's of science degree in horticulture in 1958.

Karl was a third generation member and president of Hirzel Canning Co. and Farms, with operations in Wood and Putnam counties in northwest Ohio. Karl's grandfather founded the company in 1923. Karl served as president from 1976 to 2005. Under his leadership the company grew to become a well-recognized and highly respected processor of quality tomato products and sauerkraut.

Karl was an AGR Brother of the Century, and very involved in Beta Chapter activities. Karl received many awards and honors from Ohio State University, the Ohio Cannery Association, Ohio Vegetable Growers, and the Ohio School Board Association. He was also past chairman of the National Food Processors Association and the Ohio Food Processors Association. Karl was active in the alumni committees at Ohio State University and many local community activities and committees.

Karl enjoyed spending spare time working on the farm, gardening, golfing, and spending time with family. His wife, Barbara, one daughter, three sons, and 12 grandchildren survive him.

## Memorial Contributions

The following is a list of those who have given recent gifts in memory of members who have passed away since the Winter '06 issue.

In memory Gregory E. Strode, Illinois State -- MaryEllen and Donald Strode, parents of Gregory.

## 2007 Adviser Forums

The 2007 Adviser Forums will be held during January and June. The dates will be announced soon.

**Alumni Presidents are also encouraged to attend!**

Please Contact Josh Wackler for more information

Phone: 816-891-9200, ext. 16

E-mail: [Wack@AlphaGammaRho.org](mailto:Wack@AlphaGammaRho.org)

# AGR Alumni Continue to Excel at Universities

## Bill Boehm Honored at Wisconsin - River Falls



Bill Boehm, Wisconsin – River Falls, has been named one of the two Distinguished Alumni Award recipients for the University of Wisconsin - River Falls. The award was given Saturday, May 13 during each of the two commencement ceremonies at the university.

Bill received his bachelor's degree in agricultural economics in 1969, his master's of science degree in 1972, and a Ph.D. in 1974 at Purdue University. Bill is currently part of the Kroger Co. senior management team. He joined Kroger

as director of economic research, and became vice president of logistics for Kroger in October 1994.

Bill became a member of the Alpha Psi Chapter at the University of Wisconsin - River Falls in 1968. He has served as chapter adviser for Purdue and Virginia Tech. Bill was elected to the National Board of Directors in 1996, served as the Financial Vice President from 1998 to 2000, was elected Grand President at the 2000 National Convention, and is a Brother of the Century. Bill has also been actively involved in the national FFA organization and the University of Wisconsin. Bill and his wife Debbie have two sons.

## Steve Bowen Honored at Georgia



Steve Bowen, Maryland, was awarded the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the University of Georgia's College of Veterinary Medicine. The award was presented

at the university on April 1, 2006. The school's Distinguished Alumnus Award is presented to alumni who have been identified as distinguishing themselves in their profession at the state, regional or national level. Steve's work in promot-

ing the awareness of the veterinary profession at the national level through his work with the Boy Scouts of America as well as his long time volunteerism in many activities at the local and national levels earned him the award.

In a special gathering at the Governor's Mansion in Atlanta, Georgia, Steve and his wife Debby were also recognized by Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue, a veterinary school classmate of Steve. Steve became a member of the Alpha Theta Chapter at the University of Maryland in 1966. He is currently practicing veterinary medicine in El Centro, California.

## Gary Fairchild Excels at Teaching for Florida



Gary Fairchild, Ohio State, has been named the 2005 – 2006 Teacher of the Year at the University of Florida. Gary is one of three individual

honored by the university this year. The university's criteria for the award include a faculty member that has been responsible for teaching at least two undergraduate classes during the current calendar year. Excellence and effectiveness would be demonstrated by standard evaluations of students, instructors, courses, and observation by peers and department chairs. The individuals must also prove innovation in course design and/or instruction.

Gary teaches two graduate and five to six undergraduate classes per year. His student evaluations are consistently among the highest in his department.

His unique combination of enthusiasm, energy and humor motivates students to care about what they learn, not only in his courses, but throughout life. According to his peers Gary is one of those rare individuals who makes everyone around him better at what they do, both students and faculty. Gary chairs, organizes, presents, and publishes on teaching issues. At UF, he has chaired committees; advised department and college clubs and councils; mentored junior faculty; and served on the University Center for Excellence in Teaching advisory board. Gary became a member of the Beta Chapter at Ohio State University in 1963.

## McGregor Excels at Teaching at Tarleton State

Kyle McGregor, Tarleton State, was honored with the 2006 O.A. Grant Excellence in Teaching for the College of Agriculture and Human Sciences at Tarleton State University. The award was presented Monday, March 27, 2006 at the Annual Tarleton Alumni Academic Forum Luncheon in Stephenville, Texas. Five members of the university faculty were named as recipients of the award. Recipients of the award demonstrate not only exceptional educational qualities in the classroom but a genuine concern for students outside academics. A faculty member is selected from each of the university's five colleges and recipients are awarded a plaque and a cash stipend.

Kyle has been a member of the Tarleton faculty since 2002 as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Agri-

cultural Services and Development. He supervises 15-25 student teachers each semester and advises 75 undergraduate and graduate students along with his classroom duties. He has authored or co-authored numerous publications and is in constant demand to present at conferences and workshops. In 2004 he was awarded the Outstanding Teacher Award by the American Association of State Colleges of Agriculture and Renewable Resources.

Kyle became a member of the Beta Sigma Chapter at the Tarleton State University in 1993. He received his bachelor's from Tarleton and earned a masters and doctorate from Texas Tech University. Kyle serves as chapter adviser for Beta Sigma Chapter and for Tarleton's Collegiate FFA.

### The World Dairy Expo AGR Alumni Reception

**When:** Friday, October 6 from 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.

**Where:** The Clarion Suites Hotel (adjacent to the World Dairy Expo grounds)

**Who:** All AGR members, no reservations needed.

*Donations towards the food is appreciated. There is a cash bar.*

**For more information** please contact Bill Hantke via e-mail at behanke@att.net

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We appreciate an address and personal information updates. If you would like to be featured in a future SICKLE & SHEAF please enclose a photo.

Send to: Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity, 10101 N. Ambassador Drive, Kansas City, MO 64153 or FAX: 816-891-9401. (Be sure to include mailing label below.)

## Splett Excels in Teaching at Wisconsin - RF



Nate Splett, Wisconsin – River Falls, has been awarded the 2006 Distinguished Teacher Award. Nate is a professor of agricultural economics and interim dean of the College of

Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences. This award is the highest award presented at UW-River Falls. The selection is based on nominations by graduating seniors and recent alumni.

Nate earned his bachelor's degree in agricultural education and master's degree in agricultural economics from the UWRF. He earned a Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Cham-

paign. Prior to teaching at UW-River Falls, Nate was a vocational agriculture instructor in the Barron and Turtle Lake high schools, a loan officer for Production Credit Association and a supervisor for the Farm Credit Administration. He has also served as a consultant to agriculture-oriented financial institutions and taught at UW-Stout.

Nate became a member of the Alpha Psi Chapter at the University of Wisconsin - River Falls in 2003. He is also a member of the Bloomer Historical Society, Christ Lutheran Church, Scandinavian Cemetery Association, and Barron County Woodland Owners Association as well as former president of the CAFES Alumni Association. He is a former chair of the UW-River Falls department of agricultural economics.

## Dates To Remember

August 13-16, 59th National Convention, Breckenridge, CO

September 4, Home Office closed for Labor Day

September 15-16, New Leaders Orientation, Kansas City, MO

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