

# AGR ACTION

APRIL 2013

## Tennessee-Martin Chapter celebrates 50 years

It has been 50 years since the brothers of the Alpha Upsilon Chapter of Alpha Gamma Rho founded their Chapter on the University of Tennessee-Martin (UTM) campus.

On April 19 and 20, exactly 50 years since their founding in 1963, the brothers will celebrate their fiftieth anniversary. The undergraduate brothers and the alumni association have been hard at work making plans for the event for nearly a year.

On Friday, April 19, the celebration begins. The brothers are holding a fellowship cookout at the UTM sale barn. After the meal, the brothers will be heading over to Cadillac's to catch up and meet brothers of different generations.

They will get an early start on Saturday, April 20, with a morning reception at the AGR house. Rooms in the house will be designated to different decades. Brothers of the 1960s, '70s, '80s, '90s and 2000s will gather with the other men of their era, and storytelling is sure to ensue.

"I am very excited to meet the older brothers. It's going to give me a chance to see how much our Chapter has changed over the years and will allow me to meet the men that built this fraternity into what it is today," Vice Noble Ruler of Membership Development Kody Read said.

During the festivities, the brothers

will initiate two alumni initiates, Joe Carmack and Dr. Bob Hathcock. Carmack was one of the men who helped found the Chapter in 1963, however he graduated before he was initiated. Dr. Bob Hathcock is a long-time UTM professor and friend of Alpha Gamma Rho.

After the initiation ceremony, there will be a reception held for the alumni to catch up with the Department of Agriculture, Geosciences, and Natural Resources and its staff. The brothers will tour newly renovated, Brehm Hall including the foyer, which is dedicated to the Chapter.

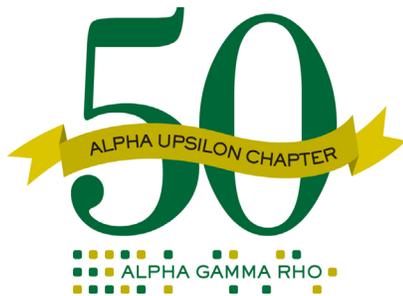
Following the reception, a banquet will be held on the UTM campus. During the banquet, there will be presentations to honor deceased brothers, to celebrate the past and present, and to dream about the future of the Alpha Upsilon Chapter.

The weekend will wrap up with a night in Historic Downtown Martin at Cadillac's. The group has rented out the entire facility on Saturday, April 20. There will be live music, brotherhood, and lots of food and fun for AGR brothers and their guests.

Alumnus Matt Carroll, who helped plan the event, is very excited about the downtown celebration.

"It gives the younger brothers a chance to mingle with older brothers in an informal setting," Carroll said.

*Information courtesy of The Pacer*



## Peek into this issue...



### Alpha Gamma Rho Grand President Award winners announced

Adam Putnam and Cody Lane are presented with awards

### AGR announces 2013 Undergraduate Directors

The 2013-2014 Undergraduate Directors are Judson Belding, Clemson University; Reagan Kays, Kansas State University; Kirby Schmidt, University of Minnesota; and Douglass Wicker, Purdue University.

### Upcoming events

And more...



## Alpha Gamma Rho Grand President Award winners announced

Administered and nominated by a selection committee the Grand President's Award is awarded by AGR for business excellence and professional achievement. It is awarded to specific fraternity alumni age 40 or under who have achieved remarkable success in their professional careers. This award demonstrates an honorable acknowledgement of Lane's leadership, professionalism and knowledge of his industry.



Adam Putnam is the Florida Commissioner of Agriculture. He has a Bachelor of Science degree in food and resource economics from the University of Florida.

Putnam has been recognized for many of his contributions to agriculture and his community throughout his career. He served five terms as congressman for Florida's 12th congressional district in the U.S. House of Representatives, serving from 2001 until 2011. He was recognized as a leader on a variety of issues, including water, energy and government transparency and efficiency. He was also acknowledged for his efforts to bring comprehensive restoration to the Everglades, reform food safety laws, modernize programs to ensure Florida agriculture remains a leader throughout the nation and increase access to fresh fruits and vegetables to counter childhood obesity.

While in Congress, Putnam was elected by his peers to serve as the Republican Policy Chairman during the 109<sup>th</sup> congress and chairman of the House Republican Conference for the 110<sup>th</sup> congress, the highest elected leadership position any Floridian of either party has held in Washington. Additionally, he served as a member of the House Committees on Government Reform, Agriculture, Rules and Financial Services.

Putnam has remained involved with AGR in a number of capacities. In 2004, he was named one of AGR's Brothers of the Century. He also served Alpha Gamma Chapter's alumni corporation as alumni vice president. He has also spoken to Alpha Gamma Chapter, both formally and informally, in regard to a number of current events and issues, encouraging brothers to be informed and to get involved with issues that affect their future.



Cody Lane is a sales agent for BBC, Inc., an animal healthcare sales and marketing agency. He has associate's degrees in agriculture business and farm and ranch management, both from Weatherford College. He then earned a Bachelor of Science degree in agricultural services and development from Tarleton State University.

Lane has been significantly involved with his community. He is involved with his local church, serves as a board of trustee member for the school district where his children attend, and serves as a member and officer on the local youth stock show in his county.

His contributions to agriculture are evident through his profession in the animal health industry and his work with local 4-H and FFA. Lane interacts with students, encouraging the ag industry's future leaders. He is involved at the local and state levels promoting agriculture through stock shows and judging contests. In 2012, he was the chairman for the inaugural Brock Livestock Show where he helped raise more than \$30,000 for scholarships for local students.

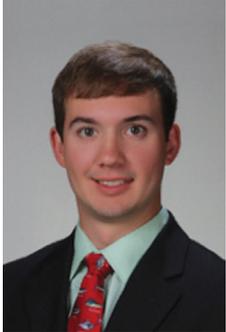
As an alumnus, Lane has remained involved with the National Fraternity in a number of ways. To name a few, he held a position as chapter consultant for the Home Office from 1998 until 2000; he has served on the Leadership Seminar planning committee since 2000; and he has served as Regional Vice President to the south central region since 2002. In 2004, he was named as one of AGR's Brothers of the Century. Locally, he has been a chairman for Beta Sigma Chapter's educational foundation since 2002 and has served as Beta Sigma's alumni board president from 2000 until 2002. In 2002, he was also named AGR Beta Sigma Alumnus of the Year.

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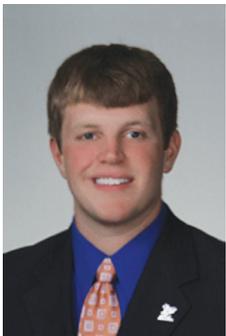
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## AGR announces 2013 Undergraduate Directors

Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity is proud to announce the election of Undergraduate Directors to its National Board of Directors.



Judson Belding is a senior at Clemson University and was initiated by Beta Zeta Chapter in 2010. He served as Noble Ruler of his Chapter in 2012, and he currently holds positions as judicial chairman and parliamentarian. Prior to transferring to Clemson, he attended Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College where he played a role in beginning a colony of Alpha Gamma Rho, which was installed as Gamma Delta Chapter in December 2011.



Reagan Kays is a junior at Kansas State University and was initiated by Alpha Zeta Chapter in 2010. He served his Chapter as VNR Alumni Relations in 2012. At Kansas State University, Kays has been extremely involved on campus. He has received a number of honors and awards including being inducted into the KSU Honors Program, being on the Dean's List every semester, and being selected as a member of Blue Key, to name a few. His leadership has been evident through the many roles he has filled on campus.



Kirby Schmidt is a senior at the University of Minnesota and was initiated by Lambda Chapter in 2010. He serves his Chapter as Noble Ruler, and previously he held the positions of VNR Membership Development and VNR Recruitment. Schmidt has received a number of honors throughout his college career. To name a few, in 2012 he received the Alpha Gamma Rho Undergraduate Excellence Award, the Minnesota FFA D.K. Baldwin Rural Youth Excellence Award and the American Society of Animal Scientists Scholastic Achievement Award.



Douglass Wicker is a junior at Purdue University and was initiated by Delta Chapter in 2010. He currently serves his Chapter as Noble Ruler and previously held the position of Vice Noble Ruler. Wicker has become very involved on campus. He is vice president of the Agricultural Council, Purdue Dairy Club chairman of the Boilermaker Heifer Sale, co-recruitment chair of the Skull and Crescent Greek Leadership Activities Honorary, and he has made the Dean's List four semesters.

## Upcoming events...

**June 21-22, 2013:**

**Adviser Forum**

*Kansas City, Mo.*

**Aug. 9-11, 2013:**

**Leadership Conference**

*Kansas City, Mo.*

**Nov. 6-7, 2013:**

**National Board Meeting**

*Columbus, Ohio*

**Feb. 14-15, 2014:**

**Leadership Seminar**

*Memphis, Tenn.*

**Feb. 21-22, 2014:**

**Leadership Seminar**

*Kansas City, Mo.*

**Feb. 28-March 1, 2014:**

**Leadership Seminar**

*Reno, Nev.*

**March 7-8, 2014:**

**Leadership Seminar**

*Philadelphia, Pa.*

**Aug. 1-4, 2014:**

**National Convention**

*Indianapolis, Ind.*