

Pearls & Rubies

THE MAGAZINE OF FARMHOUSE FRATERNITY

YEAR 115 / FALL 2020

IN THIS ISSUE:

**FELLOWSHIP
TAKES FLIGHT**

**FARMHOUSE FOUNDATION
ANNUAL REPORT**





2020 Brings Change

TO SAY 2020 has been a challenging year is an understatement. However, it has also been a year of tremendous opportunity. The global pandemic has affected nearly every aspect of our lives, altering how we learn, socialize, travel, conduct business and so much more. The pandemic has also provided an opportunity to slow down, to pause, to reflect on our values and consider what is most important to us in life. It has been an opportunity to come together and support one another in new ways. And it has reminded us that fraternity is based on more than physical presence. Emotional, spiritual and social support are and always have been among the true foundations of brotherhood.

We've also been reminded this year of the importance of inclusion, and we've been challenged to examine how we strive to fulfill our motto, "Builder of Men."

We have long recognized diversity within FarmHouse strengthens our Fraternity and enriches the experience of our members. Our Founding Fathers were intentional in building a values-based Fraternity inclusive of men from different backgrounds and experiences. When considering FarmHouse establishing a chapter at what was, at the time, a non-traditional campus for our Fraternity, D. Howard Doane responded with the concise, direct

We have an opportunity, and a responsibility, to build a more diverse and inclusive membership, both to make our Fraternity stronger, and to ensure the FarmHouse experience is attractive and welcoming to future generations on increasingly diverse campuses.

and inclusive question: "Will we be able to build men there?" This spirit of inclusivity continues to guide our growth today.

We have an opportunity, and a responsibility, to build a more diverse and inclusive membership, both to make our Fraternity stronger, and to ensure the FarmHouse experience is attractive and welcoming to future generations on increasingly diverse campuses.

This year has also been challenging for the operation of our Fraternity. The decision to cancel Conclave for the first time since World War II was simultaneously very difficult and very easy.

It was difficult because we know how much the Conclave experience means to our members. We wanted very much to come together as an international brotherhood to celebrate how FarmHouse continues to make a profound and positive impact on people, institutions of higher education and in our communities. However, it was also an easy decision because the health and safety of our members is always our top consideration.

This, we know, is not a new way of thinking for FarmHouse. It is, in fact, part of the fabric of our Fraternity. From being the first fraternity in North America to mandate alcohol-free housing, to our open Ritual, and most recently, to our Philosophy of Respect commitment. We have always committed ourselves to the health and safety of our members.

While Conclave was not held this

year, we are still recognizing a new class of Master Builders of Men. This year's class is highlighted starting on page 24. These men have each made a lasting impact, not just on our Fraternity, but on our society as well. Their selfless service to others is an inspiration to us all.

In addition to honoring our new Master Builders of Men, this issue also explores how, even during a global pandemic, the bonds of brotherhood remain strong. It highlights the many forms of friendship and fellowship built through FarmHouse.

And, finally, this issue provides a look back at the progress made during our last fiscal year. It is impressive to see how our Fraternity and Foundation are making a significant difference in the lives of so many people.

Looking forward, we know that there will always be challenges in life. It is through those challenges that some of our greatest opportunities will emerge. And we know that through both challenges and opportunities "progress shall mark our every step." ★

Fraternally,

Gabriel P. Eckert (Kansas State 95), CAE
President, International Executive Board

PRESIDENT@FARMHOUSE.ORG

Pearls & Rubies

Year 98, No. 1 • The Magazine of FarmHouse Fraternity • Winter 2003

Calendar

November 13-14, 2020

Foundation Trustees
Board Meeting
Virtual

January 7-10, 2021

FarmHouse Leadership
Institute
Virtual

March 18-19, 2021

Foundation Trustees
Board Meeting
Washington D.C.

March 19, 2021

IEB Meeting
Washington, D.C.

March 18-21, 2021

Power of 7 Seminar
Washington D.C.

May 21-23, 2021

To Be and Become
Emerging Talent Retreat
Kansas City, Mo.

July 21-24, 2022

Conclave
Oklahoma City, Okla.

FarmHouse Flashback

Pearls & Rubies previously covered the Messersmith family in the Winter 2003 issue. This family remains one of the largest in FarmHouse history. Today, we share with you the Davis family who are rapidly approaching the same level of membership. Learn more about their family values and how that impacts their decision to join FarmHouse in our Only in FH section.

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Athletic Director
Harry Birdwell**

Pearls&Rubies

SPRING 2021

Pearls&Rubies

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**FARMHOUSE MEMBERSHIP IS NOTED
FOLLOWING THE MEMBER'S NAME
BY THE SCHOOL AND YEAR OF
INITIATION (NOT GRADUATION)
IN PARENTHESIS**

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share for the spring 2021 publication?*

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Features

4 Zooming to New Bonds

The global pandemic has forced many of us to leverage technology to connect. Learn how a group of Oklahoma State alumni in their 70s and 80s have rekindled friendships on page 4.

20 A New Meaning of Brotherhood

A true testament to brotherhood is a sacrifice the time, pleasures and comforts. Two sets of FarmHouse brothers took this to a new level by making a kidney donation this summer. Learn more on page 20.

23 Conclave

Although the 51st Biennial Conclave was canceled, FarmHouse Fraternity and Foundation are recognizing members and friends who have made a lasting impact. Read about our decision to cancel Conclave and learn about our honorees on page 23.

28 Foundation Annual Report

With a change in the fiscal year for the Foundation, new staff for both the Fraternity and Foundation, and a new Day of Giving due to COVID-19, FY 2019-20 looked much different. Learn about this in the annual report beginning on page 28.

38 Alumni News

Brothers making headlines, adding to their families and more in our "In the News" section on page 43.



From the desk of...	i
FarmHouse Flashback	1
Cheers to Friendship	5
Baseball and Brotherhood	6
Leadership Spotlight	9
Fellowship Takes Flight	10
Hooked on Friendship	14
Only in FH	18
Conclave Canceled	23
Awards Recipients	24
Annual Report	29
Alumni News	45
In Memoriam	47
FarmHouse Photo	49





ZOOMING TO NEW BONDS

Top row left to right: Robert Fulton (OK 61), Cody Cramer (OK 08), Charles Sheppard (OK 51) Ken Schneeberger (OK 59) **Middle row left to right:** Sam Hall (OK 59), Harold Herring (OK 58), Bob Dzur (OK 60), Ronal Dee Legako (OK 60), **Bottom row left to right:** Earl Folk (OK 58), Ronald Noyes (OK 56), Don Schwab (OK 58), Bill Clay (OK 62).

It's 9 a.m. and time to dial-in to what is Lyman McDonald's (Oklahoma State 60) newest Saturday morning ritual. Coffee cups are full and smiles stretch from ear-to-ear. More than 10 men gather virtually to meet and converse via Zoom, an online video conferencing platform. The stories are endless and joy is plentiful. "I am just tickled to join," said the late Don Schwab (Oklahoma State 58). "I had heart surgery recently. I am very hopeful to continue these weekly meetings."

LYMAN CREATED THIS WEEKLY Zoom call for a group of Oklahoma State (OSU) FH alumni in March. These brothers have discovered a new way to stay in touch and strengthen their bond during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I started this as a way to stay-in touch with close friends," Lyman said. "I started the Zoom meeting for the original group of five soon after the coronavirus started spreading in the U.S. I learned how to use Zoom because my company initiated work from home orders and adopted Zoom as the platform for meetings and conferences."

More men joined at the beginning of April as social distancing and staying at home became the new normal.

The men range from initiation dates in 1951 to 1962. Many experienced FarmHouse before or during the Vietnam War and share what it was like

being in FarmHouse during this time. Some chose to serve their country after earning a degree, and some chose to stay in school to finish their degree. Their stories reflect the era and the choice they had to make. "Mainly we have just been getting re-acquainted after 50-60 years," Lyman added.

Not every Saturday is the same. The week leading up to the call, Lyman sends the Zoom link and presents a question or topic.

"A couple of others and I made the decision to have a short informal agenda where everyone could/would join in." Lyman added.

They have a new topic every week. What FarmHouse meant or did for them was the theme during their early August call.

"The other chapters that recruited me were all about parties, but FarmHouse guys were a lot like me," said Sam Hall (Oklahoma State 59). Many share the same opinion as Sam.

The men and experience FarmHouse provided was unique. The bond shared and memories made were like no other group on campus seemed to have. One-by-

one each man shares what he remembers most from his time in FarmHouse.

"I am thankful FarmHouse worked with me and my schedule to go through the new member program and work 20 hours a week," said Bill Clay (Oklahoma State 62).

Ronald Noyes (Oklahoma State 56) shared similar recollections. "I worked in the kitchen to pay my way, one year in FarmHouse, then two in Kappa Kappa Gamma and Alpha Delta Pi."

Harold Herring (Oklahoma State 58) came from his family's farm in Utah to Oklahoma State.

"It was people I wanted to be around—good people," Harold said. "It wasn't lavished or extreme."

"I'm thankful for our house mother, Mom McMurtry," said Robert Fullton (Oklahoma State 61)

The bond of brotherhood cannot be extinguished by the virus, but has been enhanced and brought into focus. No matter your age, location or where life took you after FarmHouse, we have all found ways to connect, and in this case re-connect, during these unprecedented times. ★



Charles Sheppard (Oklahoma State 51) leads conversation during a Zoom call.

CHEERS TO *Friendship*

As FarmHouse men we know The Object tells us that our members are to be considered to be of good moral character and promote good fellowship. And, since its beginnings, FarmHouse has recognized that while alcohol is a part of social experience, it cannot define it. That's one of the reasons the Fraternity made the

move to have alcohol free facilities in 1974. We also recognize that many of our members are engaged in either producing materials or products related to the alcoholic beverage industry. Here's the story of three FarmHouse brothers who have blended their knowledge and passion into the alcohol industry.



Paul Herman (Nebraska 58) and Doug Sparks of Sunset Cellars examine the chardonnay grapes at Wine and Walker Ranch in Suisun Valley, Calif.

CALIFORNIA DREAMIN'

Paul Herman (Nebraska 58) has been farming for more than 50 years. He grew up in Nebraska on a farm and then spent 21 years farming corn, soybean and raising hogs and horses in Illinois. In 1994, his family moved to California.

"There was a small acreage we bought with about 27 acres of open land, a house and buildings so it put a limit on the Midwest type of farming, we could do" Paul said. "At that time, grapes were a big moneymaker and something

I could do with a small acreage."

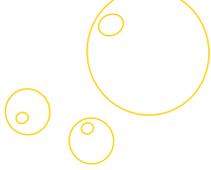
Although he is not a vintner, he grows and supplies the grapes to make wine—a vineyard. Additionally, since 1973, his family has raised Tennessee Walking Horses. As a result, this small acreage became "Wine and Walker Ranch."

The vineyard is often affected by many natural disasters in northern Calif. "One year you're making a killing and the next two your losing profits," he said. "Weather plays a big part as do tariffs and lately fires."

His grape varieties include Chardonnay (white) and Syrah (red). "There's been

an awakening to good wines throughout the country in the last decade or two," Paul said. He doesn't often have many visitors, but recently hosted Ron McKeever (Nebraska 58), his wife, Dotty, and their daughter, Michelle.

He may not have many visitors, but enjoys the occasional glass. "It seems to be a bit of a softer time and it's good throughout the meal time," Paul said. "I think wine is special as you can usually find a wine to suit the occasion and it lends itself to relaxed conversation and even the discussion of wines."



Cheers! to Friendship



Jim Walter (Illinois State 69), Jamie Walter and Nick Nagele co-founded Whiskey Acres Distillery in 2014.

CORNY COMRADERY

Nestled just outside of Chicago, about an hour from the heart of the Windy City, is Whiskey Acres Distilling Company. This was once a corn farm owned by Jim Walter (Illinois State 69).

“We are a grain farm primarily,” Jim said. “We wanted to diversify. My son came home after a short stint as an attorney.”

The father-son duo started looking for something value added. Unlike the wine industry, there has been very little research on whiskey varieties. Northern Illinois is prime corn growing country. The fifth-generation family farm wanted to make the investment and thus began the process. They knew they had to hire an expert for this to work. They brought in the late David Pickerell to assist with the process. David spent 14 years as a master distiller for Maker’s Mark in Louisville, Ky.

The group continues to expand and experiment with corn varieties. They are using blue popcorn, sweet corn and oaxacan corn from Mexico. This year they planted heirloom corn from the Jefferson Estate in Monticello, Va. “We’re experimenting with corn and soil types to produce different flavors,” said Jim.

“We’ve looked through several varieties of corn. We currently have a student from Scotland working and studying on the farm.”

Their newest variety of bourbon will also release this year, “Bottle and Bond.”

In addition to the corn and mash

distillery, the farm hosts visitors for tasting and educational purposes. Whiskey Acres is open on weekends and evenings.

Before the pandemic, there would be about 1,000 visitors from the Chicago-area. “Fifty percent of visitors come from Chicago and it’s suburbs, twenty-five percent are local and twenty-five percent are from other distances,” said Jim. “We built a new visitor center, approximately 4,000 sq ft. for hosting groups.”

Beyond the typical rows and rows of corn fields, their experience is unique. “Most people visit because they want to see how our bourbon and whiskey is made,” he said. “We start the tour, much like a vineyard, in the field. They can see the corn and reach out and see it.”

For the Walter family it is all about education. “A couple from Chicago came in to visit,” Jim said. “The lady was very enthusiastic because she had never picked sweet corn. I told her I had never picked sweet corn with a woman in high heels.”

Questions stem from the tour related to agriculture, genetically modified organisms (GMO) and sustainability. The distillery recycles its water, uses solar power and plants sweet corn visitors can harvest, buy and take with them. The excess grain is given to their neighbor who raises beef cattle. Occasionally, the neighbor returns the favor and provides steaks to the Distillery and its employees.

In addition to whiskey and bourbon,

the Distillery manufactures vodka and rye whiskey. In fact, their rye whiskey won a gold medal in San Francisco at a national competition. It has become their fastest growing product.

“It’s very common for people to assume there is nothing to do in the middle of Illinois,” Jim said. “People are always amazed at what we offer. What there is to do here.”

The comradery amongst his staff is something special. They all share in the ability to share their story and tell visitors something interesting.

“Our staff is wonderful. They have taken it to heart,” Jim said. “They help take ownership of the farm and how we operate. This is apparent in our Trip Advisor reviews.” They are the number one attraction in DeKalb County according to TripAdvisor.

“FarmHouse helped me because I learned how to work with people and maintain a staff.”

During the pandemic they had to make some adjustments. Due to the high level of alcohol in their products, they began to make hand sanitizer. He worked with their team to make adjustments to their production. “At one point we were making 1,000 gallons of hand sanitizer a day,” he said. “We started with donating to our local hospital, first responders and others in the medical field. We then started making it for the public and others.”

Cheers! to Friendship

BREWING BUSINESS

When you think of a brewery what is the first thing that comes to mind?

For Steven Kirk (Ohio State 07) it's design, layout and construction. At age 12, he began working for his dad's residential company then branched into commercial construction during his college internships in 2005.

In 2014, he had his first contract for brewery design and construction. The brewery, Land Grant Brewing Company, are a combination of restaurant and manufacturing construction.

"Breweries have very complex manufacturing systems to make the process work," Steven said. "There's lots of process piping, which is done out of food grade stainless steel, steam boiler systems and glycol chilling systems. Breweries are easily the most complex construction types in commercial construction."

This niche part of the construction industry is very large with several systems working together. Steven is open to offering internships to

undergraduate men at the Ohio State chapter studying construction systems management. "If anyone needs help I am just a phone call away," Steven said.

In addition to his first construction job with Land Grant Brewery, there are numerous other breweries and distilleries Steven has built in and around Columbus, Ohio. These include: Lineage Brewing in Clintonville, Kindred Ales in Gahanna, and they are currently in design for a large brewery in Lancaster, Ohio. They're also building a distillery in Grandview called Echo Spirits Distillery, which makes rum, whiskey and genever. Steven is part owner of Echo Spirits with two of his best friends from high school.

Steven owns part of Land Grant Brewery. "I do own part of the brewery, which originated from winning the bid to be the contractor," Steven said. "I had the opportunity to see the business plan while beginning construction and decided to buy in."

Land Grant brews approximately 30 varieties in a calendar year. Due to the

pandemic, the brewery has produced more varieties in smaller batches. They have increased it to nearly 50 varieties.

In addition to the varieties, they have distribution to about 900 locations around central Ohio including Columbus, Athens and Dayton markets. As things resume to a form of normalcy, the brewery hopes to expand its sales to Cincinnati and Cleveland.

Steven welcomes FarmHouse brothers who are interested in the industry or who want to visit the breweries. "I think alcohol helps relax people," Steven said. "Any activity that allows people to interact and spend quality time together will build friendships and fellowship."

* * *

Each alumnus has a unique perspective and provides an overview of how alcoholic beverages affect many industries. FarmHouse men continue to uphold our values and strive to keep our facilities alcohol-free, however, the occasional drink brings us all a little bit closer together. ★

Land-Grant Brewery partially owned and was designed and built by Steven Kirk (Ohio State 07). The brewery is located in Columbus, Ohio.





Steve Robinson (Auburn 72)

FORMER CHIEF MARKETING OFFICER CHICK-FIL-A - OWNER, S. ROBINSON CONSULTING

Leadership Spotlight

Steve Robinson (Auburn 72) is a consultant, author and speaker on organizational culture design and leadership, brand strategy development, marketing planning and distinctive advertising principles. He retired from Chick-Fil-A, full time, at the end of 2015 then served three more years on their board. He then spent the better part of two years writing his book, "Covert Cows and Chick-Fil-A," published in 2019. He serves on numerous other boards as well. Steve would often lead workshops and was a public speaker until the pandemic stopped events. Steve and his wife Dianne (who he met on a blind date at Auburn) live in Atlanta and have two children and four grandchildren. His brother-in-law is Master Builder Bobby Keen (Auburn 71).

What did you do and how long were you with Chick-Fil-A?

I had the privilege of starting the first marketing department for Chick-Fil-A (CFA) in 1981. I served as an officer and the Chief Marketing Officer for the business through 2015. Before leaving, our group provided all traditional marketing support, but also innovation processes and all customer facing brand development (menu, store design, brand look and messages, hospitality model, etc.). I was blessed with an amazing leadership team and staff, exceeding 200 professionals when I left. When I joined CFA, 1981 sales were about \$100 million and in 2015 sales were \$6.8 billion.

How have relationships you have made led to your career choices?

If you read my book, you will discover that my entire career was and is about relationships. Life is about relationships. There is no question I have been shaped by significant relationships...Christ (my savior), Dianne, great leaders at Auburn, Northwestern, Six Flags, Truett Cathy at CFA and his leadership team, my leadership team, pastors like Clark Hutchinson, Crawford Loritts, Louie Giglio, Gary Hewing and so many more.

As I unpack in "Covert Cows and Chick-Fil-A," all of these individuals and many more were used in my life to offer counsel, open doors, challenge my perspectives, help me grow spiritually, and role model biblical leadership. And yes, my dear friend Jerry Batts and Auburn FarmHouse were terrific friends and counsel in school. Most important, Jerry who God used to introduce me to Dianne!

What is your leadership philosophy?

Pretty simple. Surround yourself with people who are better at what they do than you are; attract people you trust in competency and character then empower them; identify potential leaders before you need them; never ask anyone to do anything that you're not willing to do; treat people with honor, dignity and respect; and extend to others the grace I have experienced in Christ.

How did FarmHouse make an impact on your career choices?

To be honest, I already knew what I wanted to do by the time I joined FarmHouse. What FarmHouse did was provide a circle of young men and environment that respected each other, valued hard work and excellence in every endeavor we tackled, together or individually.

What advice would you give someone who wants to pursue a career in consulting or marketing?

Benchmark or study the organizations that excel at building great brands over the long haul; research the academic institutions that have excellent marketing and brand management curriculum; seek the counsel of proven leaders in the field; volunteer or intern in a great marketing and brand-focused business; and work on the front line in a company that consistently delivers their brand promise with excellence. ★



Ben Ellefson (Iowa State 07) swings off a yacht during a mystery trip to the British Virgin Islands.

FELLOWSHIP *Takes Flight*

The bond of brotherhood and lifelong friendship has spanned several continents with Ben Ellefson (Iowa State 07), Justin Pierce (Iowa State 09), Ben Merryman (Iowa State 07) and Drew Allison (Iowa State 08). This group of Iowa State alumni take some of the most adventurous trips you can imagine. The bond based in a love for travel started with smaller trips while they were undergraduates including road trips, ski trips and other excursions with friends. These men and women are always ready to explore.

THE ONE CAVEAT TO THESE

exciting trips, they're a secret. They remain a mystery until nearly the last possible minute.

Post-college trips began with a yachting trip. The group watched a video and were sold on this idea.

"One of the people from our group, Justin Pierce, had seen a promo video for a yacht chartering company called, 'The Yacht Week'," said Ben. "They provide a captain and your group helps crew the boat for a week with a bunch of other yachts sailing the same route with organized events each night on the different islands."

This initial trip had seven friends and took place in the British Virgin Islands. "We loved the trip so much that we wanted to book another one, but the dates for the next one didn't work out

for us, so we started brainstorming."

This is where the idea of a mystery trip began. One person (or a couple) is randomly selected by pulling their name out of a hat. They are then in charge of planning the entire trip for everyone in the group. The process is pretty simple.

"We all agreed on an approximate budget per person for the trip so that everyone has an idea of what it will cost beforehand," Ben said.

There is a list of items the person in charge must do:

1. Identify a location.
2. Determine the week that works for everyone's schedule.
3. Book the flights and accommodations.
4. Send a packing guide one week before the trip.

"Once you arrive at the airport, the planner texts you the confirmation number for your flights and you go and check-in to find out your destination," said Ben.

The group has trouble picking a favorite location. The British Virgin Islands trip was a tropical escape. They sailed from island to island on a 43-foot sailing yacht. The trip included making new friends at each stop.

"Iceland is like being on another planet exploring underground lava tunnels, climbing volcanoes and soaking in natural hot springs every night," said Ben. "Everyone of the trips is my favorite, each in their own way."

New Zealand was filled with adventure. "From bungee jumping and paragliding to cruising through the Milford Sound. The entire trip was filled with beautiful landscapes everywhere you went."

Fellowship Takes Flight



TOP LEFT: FarmHouse men and friends visit the Basalt columns near Black Sand Beach in Vik, Iceland. **MIDDLE LEFT:** The group snorkels in 35°F water between two tectonic plates in Iceland. **BOTTOM LEFT:** FarmHouse members jump near a 100 foot crevasse on Sólheimajökull glacier in Iceland. **RIGHT:** The group takes in the sights of the Milford Somels and Mount Somel via boat in New Zealand.



“As long as we can continue, we will,” he added. “I think the goal right now is to at least give each person or couple the opportunity to plan a trip. While financially it’s been much easier since we’re all established in our careers now, as people are getting married and thinking about starting families of their own, it makes it a little trickier.”

Their next trip is planned for March of 2021 and will include 11 people.

The memories made are endless.

Highlights include: swinging from a halyard while sailing, hiking in deep underground lava caves formed from hot flowing magma that rapidly cooled, ice climbing up 100-foot crevasse on a glacier, bungee jumping from 143-meter cable car, and seeing endless landscapes from some of the most beautiful places in the world.

“We’re going to keep doing these as long as we can and enjoy the trips we do get to take,” said Ben. “They have been a great reason to stay connected with each other after college and explore the world together. We’ve made tons of memories together on these trips and hope to create many more in the future.” ★



534
← 535
→

Baseball AND *Brotherhood*



Nebraska alumni attend a Chicago White Sox baseball game.

Baseball and Brotherhood

It's the bottom of the 9th and the bases are loaded. The catcher signals to the pitcher. Here comes the pitch . . .

SMACK!

It's a grand slam. The crowd, including nearly 20 FarmHouse men, are up off their seats going wild.

MOMENTS LIKE THIS are what a group of FarmHouse men have been experiencing since 1998.

“Chris Anderson (Nebraska 86), Kyle Hauberg (Nebraska 89) and Rod Penner (Nebraska 86) were living in Chicago and decided to invite a couple of guys up for a Cubs game,” said Dan Bentzinger (Nebraska 84). “We’d been out of college for several years and the timing was perfect for a reunion.”

The group started out small, but has grown into a large gathering and weekend of fun for nearly 20 men. The group of FarmHouse alumni includes:

Chris Anderson (Nebraska 86)
Dave Anderson (Nebraska 89)
Dan Bentzinger (Nebraska 84)
Tre Brashear (Nebraska 86)
Eddie Discoe (Nebraska 85)
Ryan Downs (Nebraska 88)
Mark Fahleson (Nebraska 86)
Kyle Hauberg (Nebraska 89)
Jay Heim (Nebraska 84)
Troy Heuermann (Nebraska 89)
Brian Hilgenfeld (Nebraska 86)
Larry Miller (Nebraska 83)
Rod Penner (Nebraska 86)
Eric Poppe (Nebraska 88)
Ted Rasmussen (Nebraska 83)
Alan Scarrow (Nebraska 86)
Eric Snyder (Nebraska 89)
Tom Volk (Nebraska 85)
John Webster (Nebraska 82)
Lincoln Williams (Nebraska 87)
Tim Wheeler (Nebraska 83)

Every trip is unique but planning is simple. “The process is fairly organic. Usually, by the end of the weekend, a person will get ‘volun-told’ he is planning next year’s trip,” said Dan. This all started with wanting to have a small reunion of alumni.

Several years after graduation, the timing for a reunion was ideal.

Three brothers were living in Chicago in 1998 and invited a few friends to visit for a Cubs game. When they mentioned the game to a handful of guys, 14 showed up. The following year, Kyle had moved to Michigan and invited the same group to Detroit. From there, the group grew and the trips became an annual tradition.

The group has only met for baseball games. However, most are not baseball superfans. “To be honest, I can’t tell you a lot about the games,” Dan said. “But, I can certainly tell the stories from our experiences over the years. This is definitely about the camaraderie. Baseball is not the point of the trip. It is a catalyst to create a gathering and to renew our brotherhood.”

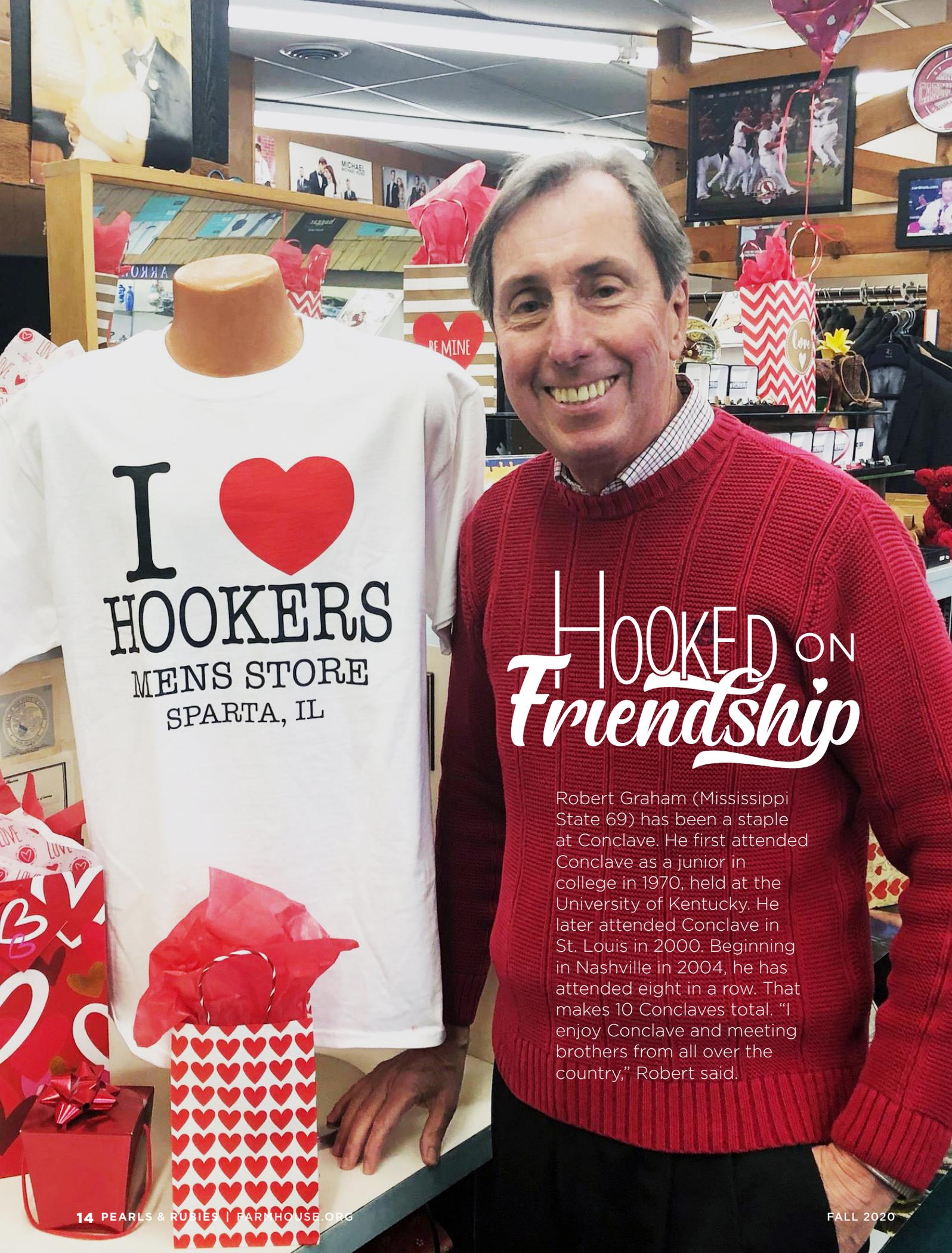
The group has now visited 22 different stadiums and will continue until they complete the circuit.

Although the group had to take a break in 2020, they look forward to visiting their next baseball stadium in 2021. “Our next trip will be to Houston, and hopefully the sports world can return to normal in time for the 2021 season,” Dan said.

After Houston, the group plans visit Oakland and include spouses. The group will watch the Athletics play and while the spouses will visit Napa Valley and wine country. “Our wives have been very supportive of the trip,” said Dan. “A lot of credit goes to them for making this possible.”

While their jobs, families and interests have grown or changed, they still make time to meet and share in their brotherly bond.

“FarmHouse is a lifetime commitment,” Dan said. “We have moved around the country, but we all remember and value our roots in Nebraska and FarmHouse. Whatever it takes, find a reason to stay connected with your FarmHouse brothers. Start your own traditions. It is never too late.” ★



I ❤️
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HOOKED ON *Friendship*

Robert Graham (Mississippi State 69) has been a staple at Conclave. He first attended Conclave as a junior in college in 1970, held at the University of Kentucky. He later attended Conclave in St. Louis in 2000. Beginning in Nashville in 2004, he has attended eight in a row. That makes 10 Conclaves total. "I enjoy Conclave and meeting brothers from all over the country," Robert said.

Hooked on Friendship

WHILE ROBERT IS A FAMILIAR FACE among his FH brothers, he may be most well-known for his men's store, Hookers Mens Store, located in Sparta, Ill. He began working there on Jan. 4, 1973.

"I was supposed to be there for two weeks to help during a sale," he said. "After two weeks, I stayed and kept showing up. Thus my 47-year career began."

As of July 31, 2020, he has been the owner for 40 years. "I have no desire to retire. Every night I lock up and look forward to welcoming more people the next day."

His customers are numerous and diverse. The day he became owner in 1980, he started a tally by using a framed map of the United States to mark where his customers originated from. To date, he has had visitors from all 50 states as well as international customers from China, Germany and England among others. "Close to 50 FH brothers have visited my store from all over the country," he said. "Most from my chapter of Mississippi State, and as many as six at one time. I love when FarmHouse brothers come to visit the store."

You may have seen the store t-shirts with the design, 'I Heart Hookers,' at Conclave as part of the FH Foundation's silent auction. "Whenever someone buys a Hooker t-shirt we tell them they are now a member of Hooker Nation," he added. The store was named after its original owner, Lee Hooker, who established the store in 1955. Many of the FH brothers who visit purchase these t-shirts. Robert has made these shirts a popular novelty item that brings people and fellow FarmHouse brothers together from across the U.S.

While the t-shirts are very popular, the bulk of his business is men's suits and tuxedo rentals for weddings and proms. "I've done as many as 32 weddings at one time," Robert said. "We average 16-17 proms at a time. During that season, we're open seven days a week for seven straight weeks."

His impact is felt in and around his community. "Our customers know we're not about a fast buck," Robert said. "They genuinely know we want to help them with their tuxedo and men's clothing needs. The golden rule is alive and well at Hookers Mens Store."

Not only does he host numerous FarmHouse alumni at his store, but he



LEFT: Robert Graham (Mississippi State 69) poses with "Bully" outside of Davis Wade Stadium on the Mississippi State University campus. TOP RIGHT: Jared Beck (WA 08), Patrick Robinson (Kentucky 98) and Robert pose together at Conclave. BOTTOM RIGHT: Robert poses with a map filled with pushpins noting visitors hometowns.



also attends sporting events and alumni events for his chapter in Starkville, Miss. He tries to visit Mississippi State around five times annually. Most often for sporting events, but Robert will also visit undergraduate and alumni members at their chapter house or in their homes.

"I enjoy meeting the new members and becoming lifelong friends," Robert said. "I have transcended five decades by visiting so often and staying in touch with chapter brothers and new members every year. I am proud to have been recognized with the Daryl Snyder Award four times."

In addition to visiting the Mississippi State chapter, Robert has assisted with other chapters. Robert lives an hour

from Carbondale, Ill., home to Southern Illinois University. This campus is home to a FarmHouse Chapter established on April 4, 2014. "To be such a young chapter and have so much success, they're a great group of people," he said. "They are the top fraternity on

their campus. I know we are all proud of them." Numerous new friendships have been made at Southern Illinois, and beyond, are all because he chose to attend Mississippi State University.

Robert chose Mississippi State because his family showed quarter horses while he was growing up. Mississippi State hosted one of the largest quarter horse shows in the country in the 1960s. "I was encouraged to go there by many faculty members," he said. It also helped that in 1960, his brother-in-law attended Mississippi State on a basketball scholarship. His sister, Sharon Hays, worked as secretary for the Dean of Agriculture on campus during this

"I have transcended five decades by visiting so often and staying in touch with chapter brothers and new members every year."

time. She discovered the agricultural ties FarmHouse had on campus and knew this would be a group Robert would enjoy.

"She was impressed with the high-caliber FarmHouse guys," he said. "She thought I would like it, and she was right. FarmHouse means so much to me." ★



ZIP Lining THROUGH LIFE

What started as a tree house with a zip line for his kids led to a full-fledged zip line business at the Shawnee National Forest in Herrin, Ill. Dr. Marc Miles (Kansas State '70) has been operating a zip line experience like none other. His idea originated in Riverside, Calif. "When my kids were young I had built a tree house for them with a zip line for an exit," Marc said.

Ziplining Through Life



Visitors to the Shawnee Bluffs Canopy Tour pose for a photo in the canopy.

BUILDING HIS BUSINESS called upon foundational knowledge he learned as a member of FarmHouse.

“The FarmHouse experience taught me great organizational skills, plus they always had the highest grade point average,” Marc said. “I was part of the first-ever freshman class to pledge FarmHouse at Kansas State University, the fall semester of 1970.” Previously new members were recruited at an older age due to campus recruitment guidelines.

His experience as an undergraduate member ended quickly because he met his wife and was married after his freshman year, and he was finishing his degree, working towards veterinary school.

Being the owner and operator of a zip line business was not Marc’s first career after graduation. “I graduated with a doctorate of veterinary medicine degree in 1978. I practiced as an equine veterinarian for 38 years.” He spent time in the St. Louis area, 15 years in California and since has been in Illinois practicing as both a veterinarian and zip line operator. While in California, Marc and his wife, Candy, had four children. As the children grew, so

did his tree house and zip line interest.

It wasn’t until he moved and his family grew did he begin to think of an experience to bring them and others together. “I now have five grandsons and thought they would enjoy something similar,” Marc said. He began his research for zip lines and related supplies.

“My internet research for zip line gear led me to observe many commercial zip line venues,” Marc said. “I needed to find

the right piece of property and then the best zip line builder for a canopy tour. I just happened to find both.”

The Shawnee Bluffs Canopy Tour opened its Union County facility in April 2013.

Southern Illinois is filled with incredible rock bluffs and hardwood forests. The tours are a true canopy tour, staying in the trees while incorporating long lines. There are four over 700 feet, the longest being 1016 feet. Participants will experience ziplining at 42-plus mph. There are also three aerial bridges, the longest is 180 feet.

“From the comments we receive from people who have previously zip lined all over the world, we are told ours may be the best they have

ever experienced,” Marc said.

The tour location is within 15 miles of Southern Illinois FH Chapter. “We have not seen any FarmHouse members yet,” he said. “It would make a great fraternity or sorority function.”

Imagine what it would look like to see young men gliding with their dates across the canopy! It would be quite a memorable experience.

“Ziplining brings out a lot of emotions,” Marc said. “It is extremely safe yet filled with a lot of adrenaline. People arrive excited and leave even more excited. During a three-hour excursion usually become good friends with people they have just met. Our guides are incredible and add a little extra entertainment value.”

“The tree tops are a great place for people to enjoy the company of others,” Marc said. “Outside in nature while also experiencing the thrills of being in the treetops. We are actually busier now during COVID-19 than before and are taking any precautions that we can. We are witnessing people just wanting to get outside and have fun.”

You can learn more about Marc Miles and his canopy tours at shawneezip.com. ★

“From the comments we receive from people that have previously zip lined all over the world, we are told ours may be the best they have ever experienced”



ONLY IN FH

FELLOWSHIP

ONE OF OUR FOUR-FOLD DEVELOPMENT PIECES OF BUILDING MEN IS SOCIALLY-MORALLY.

It is the aim of FarmHouse to create opportunities for its members to develop social refinement. Chapter functions often include dances, exchanges with sororities and fraternities, Parents' Weekends, Founders' Day celebrations, Homecoming festivities and other events. Through social engagement with fellow students and community members, we practice the social skills necessary for personal success in life.

This section, Only in FH, is dedicated to ways FarmHouse members have grown through friendships. These unique stories showcase the development of these social skills and success from friendships made. The Davis family has added several family members to the FarmHouse rolls in the last 10 years. Brian Ferrell (HON 18) has made friendships his livelihood in his industry. And two sets of FarmHouse brothers share unbelievable bonds that led to life saving sacrifices.



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FARMHOUSEFraternity

In addition to Only in FH, this fall, FarmHouse has launched a digital series: FarmHouse Focus. FarmHouse Focus will share videos from alumni, undergraduates and staff expanding on our values and current events. Follow our social media channels or be sure to update your contact information in your MyHerdBook account.



Mr. Hospitality, Brian Ferrell

"I met Gabriel Eckert (Kansas State 95) when he was a speaker at a conference I planned in Oklahoma City. We stayed in touch over the years and learned we grew up about 15 miles from each other in northeastern Kansas. We often talked about association management, FarmHouse, events and life. I'm inspired by Gabriel—his servant leadership style and lifelong commitment to FarmHouse. He invited me to go through the process to join the FarmHouse as an Honorary Member in 2018. I saw it as an opportunity to grow, give and serve. I'm in awe of the men of FarmHouse—their leadership, values and purpose. I have so much still to build!"

Only in FH

YOU COULD SAY that Factor 110 was a concept Brian Ferrell was destined to develop. Brian was initiated as an Honorary Member of FarmHouse in 2018. Ferrell earned a bachelor's of integrated studies in journalism, communications and business from Emporia State University in Kansas.

In high school and college, Ferrell was involved in Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) and served as the national president of the college division. After college, he was recruited to Oklahoma to work for a multimedia production company, where he did scripting and live production.

Ferrell's ties to FBLA then took him to Washington, D.C., where he oversaw communications, website and publications for the organization, now with a quarter-million members. During that time, his roommates pushed him to follow his dream of creating an event business, and in 2006, Factor 110 began with a couple of clients.

"I remember coming home from work one night and my two roommates sat me down on the couch for a 'career intervention,'" Brian said. "A few bottles of wine later, the company name, logo and tagline, 'factoring in the difference' were created." In December 2007, Ferrell moved back to Oklahoma and focused on the company full-time.

"I have always loved a good challenge and that every day, every event and task is different," he said. "I also get to be creative—whether it is designing an event, creating a new product or service, or pivoting during a pandemic."

Before COVID, Factor 110 was planning and managing roughly 125 programs and

over 1,000 event rentals each year. They had a staff of 44 full-time employees, many who had been with the company since its inception more than 13 years ago.

"In 2019, we had our best year to date. 2020 and future years were looking even more promising," he said. "You have to also remember our industry had to recover from the canceled events from 9/11/2001 and the down spiral of the 2008 economy. We've already had to rebuild twice in the last 20 years, but those were minor compared to what our industry is facing today."

On March 13, 2020, it changed instantly. Nearly every program, rental or event on the schedule for the remainder of the year was canceled, forcing them to reduce their staff by 75 percent and instantly go into survival mode. Brian had to quickly pivot and think of how to provide experiences and hospitality virtually.

and what components or platforms to include in the virtual meeting," Brian said.

No matter the reason, events are about bringing people together to celebrate. Whether those celebrations are for achievements, an announcement or countless other reasons. In fact, Merriam-Webster defines an event as "a noteworthy happening; a social occasion or activity."

Brian and his team do this virtually too. Brian thinks about all of the facets many do not. From arrival to departure, even for a virtual event, he plans for it. "My favorite events are ones with lots of layers and depth," Brian said. "I evoke their senses and make mesmerizing moments. Not every event has that level of character, but when they do it goes from an event to an experience."

His company, 110 Events, was scheduled to provide an experience like no other for FarmHouse at Conclave in Louisville

"I don't just design events, I design experiences. I design with purpose. I think through every detail, the guest experience, the goals and purpose and I curate the elements to create an experience guests will talk about for years to come."

Event apps, virtual & augmented reality, global audience reach and hybrid (in-person and virtual) programs were already emerging as a part of this industry before COVID events. The pandemic accelerated the need to embrace these options and technology more rapidly. "Some of the top challenges for hosting a virtual meeting include determining what content is relevant to the attendees, how to make the meeting engaging and meaningful

and then in St. Louis. Unfortunately, things changed due to the pandemic and Conclave was canceled. However, we look forward to 110 Events adding to Conclave in 2022 in Oklahoma City.

"Oklahoma City is a destination on the move," he said. "If you haven't been to Oklahoma City (or haven't been in the last few years), it's time to put it on the radar." We hope you will join FH and Brian in Oklahoma City in 2022. ★



LEFT: Trisha Yearwood performs during an event produced by Factor 110.



RIGHT: Factor 110 hosts a Diabetes Foundation fundraiser with a special performance by Pentatonix.



A New Meaning to Brotherhood

Brotherhood is defined as a relationship amongst brothers or an association, society or community of people linked by a common interest, religion or trade. This definition expanded to greater depths this summer. Two brothers who not only suffer from Polycystic Kidney Disease (PKD), but both received kidney transplants. These stories are especially meaningful because both the donors and recipients are members of FarmHouse.

The Freeman Brothers

Lon Freeman (IA 95) was diagnosed with polycystic kidney disease (PKD) in 2013, and his kidney function steadily declined to the point of needing dialysis weekly if he did not receive a transplant.

"We found out on my birthday last September that we were a perfect six for six tissue type match, after several days of testing at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn.," said Lon's brother, Bryce Freeman (IA 93), who lives in Columbia Md. "We were formally approved for the donation at Thanksgiving in 2019."

On August 3, 2020, Bryce donated one of his kidneys to his brother, Lon. "It was a no-brainer decision to donate. I would have donated to someone else to move Lon up the list were we not a match," said Bryce. "I'm two years older, and Lon has always been my best friend. We were very close

FarmHouse because I had so much admiration for the men recruiting me," said Bryce. Bryce is a Global Delivery Leader for McCormick & Co.

"It's true that you become the average of the 10 people you are most frequently with, and FarmHouse improved me immeasurably." Bryce served on the IEB from 2002–10, including four years as International President.

"I don't know that Bryce's choice of FarmHouse had much to do with my opinion of the chapter," said Lon. "Perhaps he felt an obligation to select a chapter he could be proud of as an example for his little brother. While I did look at and receive bids from a couple other fraternities, none had the feeling of brotherhood, the obvious leadership presence at Iowa State and the balance

provided by the four-fold development I felt I needed in a Fraternity."

The support received from Bryce and others have helped Lon make a strong and quick recovery. "We have both recovered quickly, and Lon was sent home last week, three weeks

early," said Bryce. "We feel very blessed!"

"To a certain extent, his recovery will never end because he will take 20-30 pills a day for the rest of his life to prevent rejection of the kidney," said Bryce.

"My recovery has been fairly quick, though it will be a lifetime involvement in anti-rejection medications," said Lon.

Post-surgery, Lon was in the hospital for two and a half days to give him time to build up his strength, allow for some healing and ensure that the kidney was working as expected. After being released, he stayed in Rochester, Minn., for another eight days as he went through nearly daily blood draws and other testing to ensure that the medication was working as expected and evaluate the performance of Bryce's kidney in Lon's body.

When the doctors and nurses were confident in its performance and his ability to keep up with the anticipated regimen, they allowed Lon to return home in Maple Grove, Minn.

"It has been great to get back with my family and return to virtual work," said Lon. Lon is an operation manager for Gerneal Mills.

"They will continue to monitor my kidney and medicine levels on a monthly basis until I reach a year out. At that point, they may be able to back down my medicine levels again and back off monitoring to once every three months for the rest of my life with annual returns to Mayo for testing."

"While it is a lot to keep up with, the impact of Bryce's kidney was nearly instantaneous," Lon added.

He is grateful for his brother in more ways than one. It brought them closer together through the many lasting friendships and memories made as undergraduates, which has continued later years with a lifelong affect. "Choosing one (FarmHouse) that was consistently at the top in grades, leadership and caliber of men was a pretty good way to do that."

"My choice of FarmHouse has provided me with a sense of dedication and expectation of service that permeates everything I do."

—Lon Freeman (IA 95)

growing up and both attended Iowa State as chemical engineers and FarmHouse men. He would have likely died by age 50 if this hadn't been possible, so we feel incredibly blessed that we were a match."

Their brotherly bond and friendship grew stronger as undergraduates and members of FarmHouse. "I joined



LEFT: Lon Freeman (IA 95) and Bryce Freeman (IA 93) pose together a few days before their kidney transplant surgery. RIGHT: Derek Foote (KS 02) and Tyler Alpers (KS 00) stand together in the hospital just hours after a successful kidney transplant.



Closer Cousins

Tyler Alpers (KS 00) also suffers from polycystic kidney disease, a genetic disorder he was born with. His mom has the same disease and his sister donated one of her kidneys to their mother.

Polycystic kidney disease (PKD) causes cysts to grow on your kidneys, which gradually reduces functionality. “I’m only 39 and typically you see this when you are about 50,” Tyler said. “Through lots of testing I met the requirements to be on the kidney transplant list. My mother received a kidney 12 years ago.”

Due to his progression of PKD, he needed to have a transplant earlier than anticipated. “This all happened relatively fast,” Tyler said. “I had my first transplant appointment June 1, 2020, and surgery on Aug. 7, 2020. This is really fast compared to a normal transplant.”

According to national data, there are 100,000 people on the kidney transplant list and about 20,000 people receive a kidney each year. There are

four types of donors: living, deceased, Vascularized Composite Allografts (primarily skin) and pediatric donors. Even with a living donor, there is a pretty significant wait time for a transplant.

“I’ve received numerous cards and texts during this time,” Tyler said. “Many have reached out on social media. You really feel when you’re laying there getting ready for surgery. How many people are thinking and praying for you.”

Derek Foote (KS 02) is Tyler’s cousin and his tissue and organ was a match for Tyler. “I encourage anyone who is interested in it [being an organ donor] to look into it,” Derek said. “Obviously, we have two kidneys and we can still survive with one.”

Not only do family ties keep them together, so will the connection via organ donation. “Tyler and I grew up close to each other, although he is two years older,” Derek said. “We grew up with a tree row between us. We went to the same high school.”

Derek also attended Kansas State and chose to join FarmHouse. “Both of us being in the chapter was another layer to our relationship,” he said. “We’ve been blessed by the relationships we made by FarmHouse.”

Derek and Tyler both knew FarmHouse would be the place they called home. “Growing up there were a lot of FarmHouse guys around me,” Derek said. “There was an older member of FarmHouse who worked on my uncle’s farm Cody Dick (Kansas State 95). He was sort of a big brother. He was someone we would always visit.”

The next layer to their bond was strengthened by simply taking a test and determining they were a kidney match.

Family, friendship and FarmHouse values guided their paths to this selfless. “I’ve thought about The Object a lot,” Tyler said. “The one line ‘a sacrifice of time, pleasures and comforts,’ Derek gave that.” ★



TOP: The entire Davis family, their wives and grandchildren pose for a wedding photo with the bride and groom, Beau (Oklahoma State 16) and Lexie. **BOTTOM:** Kenny, Rick and Steve Davis pose with their mother and father, Shirley and Ernest.

Davis Family Values

THE DAVIS FAMILY is well-known amongst men in the Oklahoma State FarmHouse Chapter. Brothers Steve (Oklahoma State 77), Rick (Oklahoma State 80) and Kenny Davis (Oklahoma State 83) all joined FarmHouse within six years of one another, beginning in 1976 with Steve. Each had children who attended Oklahoma State and joined FarmHouse.

As one of the largest families within FarmHouse, the Davis' and their tradition of membership in the Fraternity has extended beyond immediate family to a cousin, their father and a son-in-law.

The eldest member Ernest Davis (Oklahoma State 86), was initiated as an associate member in 1986. "My father was not able to go to college, but he was a big supporter," said Steve. "My father had two friends who were in FarmHouse."

Although not a Davis, Duane Schnuelle (Oklahoma State 95) is part of the family, cousin to Steve, Rick and Kenny. Duane grew up in Virginia Beach, Va., but would visit family in Oklahoma and later attended Oklahoma State, joining FarmHouse. "His last three summers of high school he visited all summer," Steve said.

"Chronologically, I was the first to make the choice. I was influenced by the guys in the chapter. I was very active in FFA and many were in FarmHouse. Rob Hudson (Oklahoma State 76) was very influential being from the same hometown as me."

Steve's choice shaped the future of the family and their tradition to join the Oklahoma State FH Chapter. "I made my decision based on the quality of the men in the chapter," Steve said.

Steve was president of the chapter when his brother, Rick, entered as a freshman. "I didn't have to pressure him," Steve said. "He had the same feelings. He made it seem like an easy decision."

Time passed and Steve's own children grew up and began their college search. His sons were avid sports fans and leaned toward attending Oklahoma State. "I never had any conscious pressure on my children either," Steve said. "I wanted them to make their own decisions. I didn't have to recruit them, they always wanted to do it."

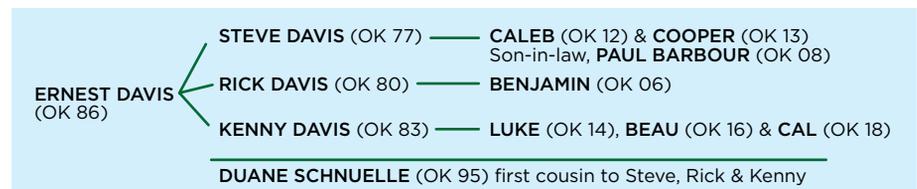
Part of the influence came from what their children witnessed while they were growing up. The Davis brothers shared mutual friends, had developed the same values and made a difference by staying involved in the chapter as they grew older. "Part of it was our sons observed relationships we made because of FarmHouse," he said. "They witnessed

these relationships and saw the difference FarmHouse made on those relationships."

Steve was instrumental in the capital campaign to build the new \$7 million, 89-man chapter facility at Oklahoma State, which opened in 2014. He is also a key contributor and philanthropist to other initiatives with the FarmHouse Foundation, in particular to the FH Excellence Fund and the Power of 7 Seminar. Steve was selected to be recognized as a FH Foundation Philanthropy Laureate this year. Brothers Rick and Kenny have also stayed active. Kenny serves on the Oklahoma State FH Association Board.

If you asked what it was that attracted the men to FarmHouse it was the accountability and relationships. "Those are the two things I learned as FarmHouse values," Steve said. "We hold you accountable, but also push you to be the best you can be in the four-fold development ways."

As in FarmHouse, they have continued this development with their children, allowing the Davis family legacy to live on. ★





Conclave Canceled

On March 15, 2020 the FarmHouse Headquarters staff were planning for and preparing to host the 2020 Conclave. Based on feedback from students and alumni, much excitement was brewing for the 51st Biennial Conclave. The four-day event in Louisville, Ky., was set to be a fantastic convention for many reasons. We had plans to initiate a sitting Congressman and the Kentucky Commissioner of Agriculture. Events were booked for more than 500 people at Churchill Downs, home of the Kentucky Derby. We were excited to bring FH brothers and families together in fellowship at the newly renovated Marriott Downtown.

WOW, 90 DAYS can change everything!

As COVID-19 picked up steam, after mid-March, we kept an eye on regulations in Louisville to monitor if the city and hotel could host Conclave. As we approached the middle of June, we knew we would need to find alternatives to salvage the 51st Biennial Conclave.

We quickly found a location in St. Louis where we could host a scaled-back version of events—limiting our attendance to 125 people. Safety was our paramount concern. St. Louis itself was a drivable option for more than 70 percent of our expected chapter and association delegates, meaning they could choose to attend without added exposure in airports.

After this plan was solidified, cases began spiking in St. Louis County and

around the country. We were again without a host city for Conclave, so the International Executive Board made the decision to cancel Conclave.

Our attention now turns to the 2022 Conclave and, in between, planning a celebration for our 2020 Master Builder of Men. You can read more about them and other award recipients in the next few pages.

We plan to recognize our Master Builders in conjunction with the FarmHouse Foundation's Power of 7 Seminar in Washington, D.C. on March 20, 2021. This will be an opportunity to share our fraternal bond and congratulate those deserving of the Fraternity's highest honor and award. More information will be published as we approach March 2021. ★

Congratulations to the 2020 Master Builders of Men

In 1950, the Master Builder of Men Award was created by the Fraternity's National Executive Board as the highest honor FarmHouse may bestow upon alumni members. Neither position, wealth nor occupation enter into consideration for the award, but simply what he has done to help others. Four FarmHouse brothers have been selected as the 2020 recipients of this prestigious award. Congratulations to these distinguished FarmHouse men!



Frank Bezdicek (Minnesota 67)

Frank Bezdicek resides in White Bear Lake, a suburb of Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minn. He serves as chair of the Minnesota Greek Alumni Council and as a chapter advisor of the Minnesota Chapter.

Following his undergraduate education, Bezdicek served for seven years in the Minnesota National Guard and taught vocational agriculture for three years. He spent the next 30 years working for Land O'Lakes. He began as a sales representative and retired as manager in Marketing Communications for the Agricultural Services Division. In 1992, he completed a master's degree in business communication from the University of St. Thomas.

Marketing has been a constant theme throughout his life. Upon leaving Land O'Lakes, Frank formed his own company, The Other Right Answer LLC, a marketing and communications business he operates today.

It was this ability to market and communicate his values instilled by FarmHouse that led him back to the University of Minnesota. He served on the committee then as chair of the Norman Borlaug Science Achievement Award and volunteered for the College of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Sciences (CFANS) Alumni Society. He has received the University of Minnesota Alumni Service Award

and CFANS Alumni Advocacy Award.

Frank was instrumental in the fundraising and regularly communicating to alumni about the construction of the new Minnesota FarmHouse chapter house, which was completed in 2017. He served on the Green and Gold fundraising and alumni outreach committees, and Building the Future task force. His passion and communication skills have reinvigorated the chapter and Minnesota FarmHouse alumni. He has been a long-time generous donor, including the FarmHouse Foundation in his estate plans.



Don Ferguson (Kansas State 63)

Don and his wife, Signe, have homes in Denver, Colo., and Chicago, Ill.

Don Ferguson, Ph.D., spent more than 44 years in engineering and management consulting fields for the nuclear industry. His first 32 years he consulted in various roles in the defense and nuclear industries. Primarily with the Department of Energy's cleanup of the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site and with Fluor Hanford, Inc. and CH2M HILL Hanford Group, both of whom operated major portions of the Hanford Site. Don spent five years in leadership roles to complete the construction and startup of the Comanche Peak power station in central Texas. He was a staff member for 12 years with Argonne National Laboratory leading the research and development plan for advanced reactor

safety technology for the Department of Energy. Finally, Don spent the following six years as a technology consultant for cyber security, network design and database application development through his firm, Ferguson Associates.

Ferguson has a master's degree in applied nuclear science from the University of Birmingham in the United Kingdom, a Ph.D. in nuclear engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and an Executive MBA from the University of Chicago.

Don serves as the chair of the Kansas State FarmHouse Chapter capital campaign committee, helping to raise more than \$2.8 million for their house expansion and renovation. He served as a FarmHouse Foundation Trustee from 2005–2011, serves on the Foundation's Audit Committee and has attended eight Power of 7 Seminars. He has been a long-time generous donor, including the FH Foundation in his estate plan.



Larry Hageman (Ohio State 94)

Dr. Larry Hageman resides in Rochelle, Ill.

Larry is a third generation dairy and grain farmer. At an early age he wrote a paper for 4-H outlining running a field research station for a major agricultural chemical company, and thus his pursuit for his career began.

Hageman spent 35 years with DuPont in



various roles including research biologist, manager of the Rochelle Field Station and territory manager for development. Larry's work has earned him significant professional distinction, including writing more than 30 publications and peer-reviewed articles to his credit. He earned a U.S. patent in 1985.

As part of the corporate restructuring of Dow-DuPont in 2017, the Rochelle Field Station was acquired by FMC Corporation. Currently, Larry serves as FMC's Field Development Representative for the Rochelle Research Station.

He has earned honorary FFA degrees at the local, state and American level. He received the Award of Merit from the College of Agriculture, Consumer and Environmental Sciences at the University of Illinois in 2014. He continues to provide internships for students.

In 2010, Larry strongly advocated for the ATZ and FarmHouse merger, having mentored many men of FarmHouse during his career. Through Larry's participation and involvement in the Ohio State Chapter, he has endowed several scholarships with the FarmHouse Foundation, furnished portions of the chapter house, held several board positions and sponsors the chapter's annual scholarship banquet. He serves as a member of the chapter's Foundation Council. He has been a generous donor to the FarmHouse Foundation, including the Foundation in his estate plans.



Craig Harris (Iowa State 65)

Craig lives in Shenandoah, Iowa, with his wife, Kathy, and have two children, Shannon and Chad (IA 98).

Upon completing his degree, he spent 10 years as a pilot with the United States Air Force. He served four years in the

Vietnam War piloting C-141 aircrafts from McChord Air Force Base in Tacoma, Wash. He remained a member of the Air Reserves for three more years.

Upon completing active duty, Craig earned his master's degree in agriculture economics and then began his 40-plus year career in farm management and appraisal in the state of Iowa.

He first joined The Sandage Company as a farm manager and real estate agent. During this time, he served as a member of the Iowa FarmHouse Association Board and became involved with the Iowa Chapter and American Association of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers, an association founded by FarmHouse Founder, D. Howard Doane (MO 05). He also spent time working with working with Gibson Farms, Inc.

In 1991, Craig entered into a new career in farm management and appraisals. He joined the Farmers National Company, then Farm Credit Services of America in 2001, and finally with Peoples Company, his current employer, in 2020, after a short retirement.

During his tenure, he worked with the USDA and USAID to lead negotiations with the Czech and Slovak Republics to establish laws, policies and regulations in the former Communist countries. His ability to share his passion for agriculture and real estate led to his appointment by Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad as a Commissioner to the Iowa Appraiser Board and his election as President of the Iowa Chapter of the American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers.

Craig cares deeply about his community and for FarmHouse. Harris served on the International Executive Board from 2000-2006. He has been a long-time generous donor and volunteer with the FarmHouse Foundation. Craig served on the First United Methodist Church of Shenandoah Board of Trustees, the Shenandoah Medical Center Foundation Board, Shenandoah Historical Society, Shenandoah Chamber and Industry Association Board of Directors as well as other local organizations. Craig and Kathy, recently celebrated 50 years of marriage and are lifelong supporters of Iowa State University. ★

Welcome our New International Executive Board Members!



Brian Fenimore (Missouri 85) graduated with a degree in agricultural economics and received a JD from the University of Michigan Law School in 1990. While an undergraduate at Missouri, he served as social chair and president of his chapter.

Prior to becoming a United States Bankruptcy Judge for the Western District of Missouri in 2017, Brian led the bankruptcy and insolvency practice at Lathrop Gage LLP (now Lathrop GPM) for more than 20 years. He appeared in cases throughout the United States and served on the firm's Executive Committee for several years.

Brian became the Chief United States Bankruptcy Judge for the Western District of Missouri on Jan. 1, 2020, and recently presented a program on Chapter 12 farm bankruptcies to all U.S. bankruptcy judges. Brian and his wife, Lorna, both grew up on farms in northwest Missouri and live in Kansas City, Mo. They have two children, Rachel (in medical school) and Will (a recent Missouri graduate).



Joe Stephens (Missouri 93) graduated with a degree in agricultural education in 1996, a M.A. in college student personnel at Bowling Green State University in 1998 and an MBA from Washington University in St. Louis in 2005. As an undergraduate, Joe served on the Mizzou IFC and was the Homecoming Parade emcee. He worked for FarmHouse Fraternity as the Director of Expansion and Growth from 1999–2001.

He has spent the majority of his career devoted to higher education, with a brief stint in brand management with Nestle Purina. Before his current institution, Joe served in assistant director and director roles with Washington University in St. Louis and at Mizzou as Assistant Dean of MBA Programs with the Trulaske College of Business. He currently serves as the Senior Assistant Dean and Director over the Working Professional and Executive MBA Programs at the McCombs School of Business for the University of Texas in Austin, where he has worked since 2014. Joe, his wife Cheryl and two daughters live in Austin, Texas. ★

DIRECTORS CONTINUING TO SERVE A PREVIOUSLY APPOINTED FOUR-YEAR TERM:

John Foltz (Ohio State 79)
Greg Ibach (Nebraska 81)

NOMINATED FOR A SECOND TERM:

Judson Ricks (Troy 07)
Eric Steiner (Purdue 98)

OFFICERS NOMINATED FOR A TWO-YEAR TERM:

Gabriel Eckert (Kansas State 95), President
Eric Bymaster (Purdue 90), Vice President
Judson Ricks (Troy 07), Treasurer

Fraternity Awards



Barnes Interfraternalism

The Barnes Award for Interfraternalism recognizes the service of volunteers, campus professionals, organizations or higher education administrators who support FarmHouse and advance the fraternal movement, for the betterment of the fraternity and sorority community. New honorees for the Barnes Interfraternalism Award include:

- 2019—Dr. Lori Hart, *Alpha Omicron Pi*
- 2020—Rick Burt, *Pi Kappa Alpha*

Claude B. Hutchison

Brother Hutchison served as the first Board President, elected in 1917 and served eight years—the only president to do so in the Fraternity’s history. He was also a role model outside the Fraternity having served as the Dean of Agriculture at California-Davis as well as at Nevada, Reno, and was the mayor of Berkeley, Calif., after his academic career ended. This is the Fraternity’s second highest recognition for an alumnus, second only to the Master Build of Men honor. This year’s recipients of the Claude B. Hutchison Award for Meritorious Service are:

- Brent Bible (*Purdue 93*)
- Ron Vaske (*South Dakota State 87*)
- Jim Wieland (*North Dakota State 72*)
- Patrick Robinson (*Kentucky 98*)

Foundation Awards

Philanthropy Laureates

The FarmHouse Foundation Board of Trustees established the Philanthropy Laureate Award in 1999. This distinguished designation for outstanding philanthropic support is the highest honor bestowed by the Foundation. The recipient(s) must have exhibited great philanthropic intent throughout his/her life and have some connection with FarmHouse as a brother, spouse, parent, relative, etc. Typically the recipient is an individual who has made financial and service contributions of significant dimension to the Foundation, individual FarmHouse chapters and/or society. New honorees for the Philanthropy Laureate include:

- 2019—Jeremy M. Settles (*New Mexico State 94*)
- 2020—Steven C. Davis (*Oklahoma State 77*)
- Posthumously—Clayton K. Yeutter (*Nebraska 49*)

Robert L. Off Servant Leader

The Robert L. Off Servant Leader Award is a means to recognize individuals who have tirelessly contributed his or her time, leadership and resources in meaningful ways for the advancement of the FarmHouse Foundation. The award is named after Bob Off (CO 67) for his 45 years of dedicated professional service to FarmHouse Fraternity and the FarmHouse Foundation and for his tremendous impact on thousands of FarmHouse members during his tenure. New recipients of the Robert L. Off Servant Leader Award are:

- 2019—Calvin G Messersmith (*Nebraska 61*)
- 2020—James P Tobin (*Iowa State 76*)

For more information about this year’s recipients, please visit the FarmHouse Foundation website here: <http://bit.ly/farmhousenews>



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FRATERNITY

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SHOW OFF YOUR FARMHOUSE PRIDE!



20% OFF

ALL HOODIES & SWEATS

FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

VISIT US ONLINE AT FHGEAR.COM



FARMHOUSE FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT 2019—2020



Foundation Board of Trustees

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CHAIRMAN
Entrepreneurial Advisor & Owner, EAS-MKE, LLC
- SCOTT D. NAGEL** (MN 85)
CHAIR-ELECT
President, ADM Benson Quinn
- ROBERT G. KNIEF** (IL 89)
PAST FOUNDATION CHAIRMAN
President, Bartlett Grain Company
- RICK A. BERG** (ND 78)
*Partner, Midwest Management Co.,
Former United States Congressman*
- LLOYD A. BETTIS** (IA 67)
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- W. SHAYNE WOODARD** (TT 85)
Founder & Owner, Waterloo Lobby & Advocacy, Inc.
- BRIAN N. WOOLLEY** (IA 75)
Attorney & Partner, Lathrop GPM

We thank outgoing Trustees during the Fiscal Year 2019—20: **JASON MOTT** (MO 94) and **JIM WIELAND** (ND 72).

Foundation Staff

- ALLISON RICKELS, CFRE**
Executive Director & CEO, FarmHouse Foundation
- JASON BUTLER**
Director of Leadership Giving
- MICHAELA NORTON**
Director of Stewardship
- JO BERRYMAN**
Part-Time Administrative Assistant

Because . . . You give more. You inspire. You make a difference.

We have seen this time and again during our service as Foundation Trustees. Last fiscal year (FY 2019–20) was no exception when you and 2,173 other FarmHouse brothers and friends joined together to invest over \$2.36 million through the FarmHouse Foundation.

YOUR GIVING speaks volumes about your confidence in your Fraternity and your belief in our FarmHouse undergraduate brothers. Through your generosity, you continue to help our leaders – students, volunteers and staff – be nimble in the face of unexpected challenges, and you help ensure FarmHouse continues to be relevant, innovative and responsive.

As an example, for stronger alignment, the International Fraternity and the Foundation have moved to the same fiscal year, which began July 1, 2020. To make this transition, our FY 2019-20 was 16 months, from March 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020.

This means there were four more months last fiscal year for us to recognize donations, celebrate donors, take pride in our successes, understand new challenges and invest in FarmHouse young men through the Fraternity's educational initiatives. Many of you stepped up and have been a bright spot during this unprecedented time.

This was most evident during our FH Day of Giving held on Founders' Day on April 15, 2020. Many of you rose to the occasion by giving, reconnecting and sharing the positive impact FarmHouse has made, and we were able to surpass our goal, raising \$118,000 for the FH Excellence Fund.

What is the return on your investments last fiscal year?

You enabled the Fraternity to provide new virtual learning opportunities, enhanced online educational programs and resources to connect members together when they couldn't gather in person. You invested in a new student-

based annual research initiative, a robust online new member education platform and helped award a record-setting grant of over \$160,000 to fully fund the 2020 Leadership Institute, where 260 incoming officers participated.

We're very proud you helped the Foundation achieve its stretch goal to double the educational grants to the International Fraternity, providing a record \$537,198 for leadership training, educational programming, facilitation, chapter services and educational staff time. A third of the Fraternity's budget is made possible because of Foundation donors, a higher percentage than any other men's fraternity.

Additionally, because of you, the Foundation awarded a record-setting \$177,118 in academic scholarships to 212 undergraduates, the largest number of recipients ever. One student story that tugs at our hearts is featured on page 42 from Tony Phan (North Dakota State 19), about his struggles growing up, how FarmHouse has changed his life and is helping him become the first in his family to earn a college degree.

Improved housing continues to be a top priority for many FH Associations. Over \$2.37 million was granted to nine Associations for the educational portion of new or renovated chapter houses. In particular, we assisted with the expansion and renovation of the Kansas State FH Chapter House, which was complete in August 2020 for students returning to campus for the fall semester.

Because of you, much has been accomplished together. In total, 342 grants were awarded totaling over \$3.36 million.

However, our work isn't done.

There are new students to invest in, educational initiatives in need of our support, stories to share and lives to help change through FarmHouse.

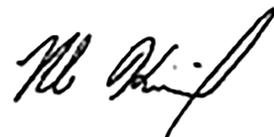
I, Bob, am so pleased to pass the leadership torch to Loren Peterson, who became Foundation Chairman in late April. The Foundation is in great hands with Loren's leadership along with the Trustees, Allison Rickels as our CEO and the Foundation staff.

One of the parts of my role I enjoy most is seeing young people grow, contribute and develop into leaders and helping them along in that process. At the same time, I know that FarmHouse has played a significant role in my own development. I continue to be involved with the Foundation because I feel a need to see FarmHouse remains strong for the next generation of students.

I, Loren, thank you for your dedicated generosity and Bob for his impressive leadership the last two years as chair. The Foundation Trustees, Staff and I continue to be amazed by the impact you, as donors, make in the lives of young FarmHouse men.

Your involvement is always shining bright and is the encouragement our chapter leaders need. We look forward to your partnership and philanthropy in our new fiscal year.

Fraternally,



BOB KNIEF (Illinois 89)
Immediate Past Chairman,
Foundation Board of Trustees;



LOREN PETERSON (Nebraska 75)
Chairman, Foundation Board of Trustees;



FARMHOUSE FOUNDATION 2019—2020 HIGHLIGHTS

“I now feel more prepared than ever to help my chapter grow and am ambitious about the things we can accomplish. FLI has, without a doubt, made me a better officer, but more than that, it has helped put me in contact with like-minded individuals who can help me grow as a man both in FarmHouse and in life.”

—Jacob Pitts (Colorado State 18)



4. Leadership Training

\$573,152



was granted to the Fraternity and to individual chapters for leadership programs—a record!

5. Educational Portion of Chapter Housing

\$2,375,113

was administered for the educational portion of new or renovated chapter houses on nine campuses.

6. Program Services

\$120,341

for the Foundation staff to administer educational grants to the Fraternity and chapters.

PROVIDED **342 GRANTS**
IN THE BELOW **SIX AREAS** TOTALING:

\$3,360,502

1. Fraternity Support

\$101,405

supported the operations of the International Office, membership database, online communications to all members, and *Pearls & Rubies*.

2. Computer Labs and Affiliated Technology

\$13,373

in grants were made to the Fraternity and four chapters for in-house computers and technology.



3. Scholarships

\$177,118



in academic scholarships were awarded to 212 undergraduates—a record!

“Thank you for your generosity and support towards my degree. I promise I will continue to work hard in my classes so I can one day give back to others, just like you have done for me.”

—Alec Higgason (Illinois 17)

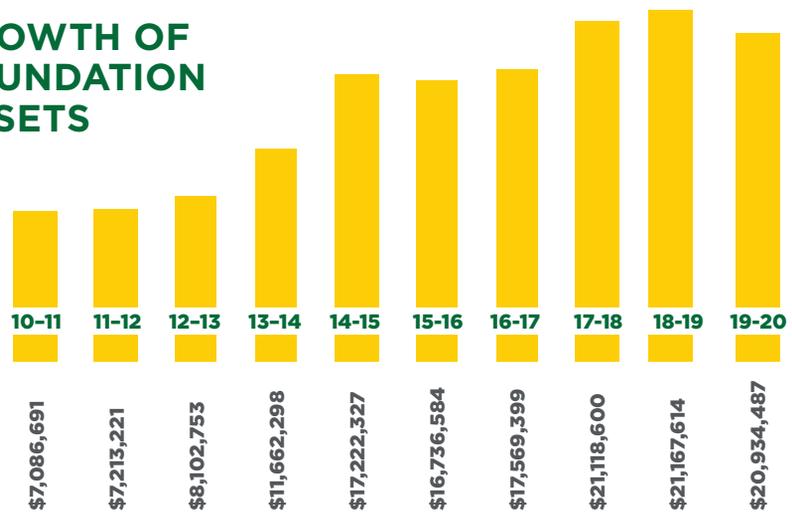


STEWARDSHIP, GIFTS AND FUNDRAISING

2,174 ALUMNI, STUDENTS
AND FRIENDS GAVE TO THE
FOUNDATION A TOTAL OF

\$2,362,913

GROWTH OF FOUNDATION ASSETS



OVER **9.6%** OF
FARMHOUSE MEMBERS
MADE A GIFT IN FY 19-20.

40.7% OF ALL
FARMHOUSE ALUMNI
HAVE EVER MADE A GIFT.

**Fraternal foundations average 3%
in alumni participation.*



\$0.21 FUNDRAISING
EXPENSES

\$1.00 PER DOLLAR
RAISED

**Non-profit industry average
is \$0.35/\$1.00.*

4 new endowment funds
were established
bringing the total
number of endowed
funds to 177.

390

DONORS GAVE
MORE THAN

\$118,690

ON THE FH DAY OF GIVING
AND 115TH FOUNDERS' DAY

212

ALUMNI, ASSOCIATIONS
AND FRIENDS JOINED
THE 8TH ANNUAL
CHAIRMAN'S CLUB



In August 2019,
received the Foundation
for Fraternal Excellence's
"Best Development Effort
Award of Distinction"
and "Best Use of a
Foundation Grant."

A RECORD

943

UNDERGRADUATES
DONATED

\$9,480

TO THE 2019 RUBY SOCIETY



77

individuals have included
FarmHouse in their estate
plans, totaling over

\$5.2 MILLION

in pledges through the
"100 Legacies in the Making"
Campaign.

Learn more about those who
invested in the FarmHouse
Foundation, see your name in the
Donor Honor Rolls, review the
Foundation's financial statements
and discover more ways you and
other donors are building young
men by reading our 2019-20 Annual
Report.

<http://bit.ly/FHAnnualReport>



FARMHOUSE FRATERNITY 2019–2020 HIGHLIGHTS

Membership Numbers

36 CHAPTERS **1,578** UNDERGRADUATE MEMBERS **42** MEN AVERAGE CHAPTER SIZE



3.09

COLLECTIVE GPA

MORE THAN

\$88,000

RAISED TOWARDS PHILANTHROPIC CAUSES

32,000+

HOURS OF TOTAL COMMUNITY SERVICE



In May 2020, **U.S. SENATOR CORY GARDNER** (Colorado State 95) delivered a virtual commencement address for FarmHouse graduates and their families.

MORE THAN

260

CHAPTER OFFICERS received position-based education and leadership development at the annual FarmHouse Leadership Institute in January 2020



While Conclave was canceled due to COVID-19, four men were recognized as Master Builders of Men for 2020. Frank Bezdicek (Minnesota 67), Don Ferguson (Kansas State 63), Larry Hageman (Ohio State 94) and Craig Harris (Iowa State 63) will be honored at the Power of 7 Seminar in March 2021.

10

chapters will begin testing in Fall 2020 for a new international new member education program.

CHAPTERS RECEIVED

20,000+

HOURS OF IN-PERSON SUPPORT

10,000+

HOURS OF REMOTE SUPPORT

7

webinars focused on COVID-19 response were given



The Fraternity launched a five-year partnership with Dyad—a firm that will help the organization use student assessment to refine its educational offerings and chapter support model.



The Fraternity redesigned its staff chart to better reflect the needs of students and alumni while also adopting a conservative budget position to navigate the impacts of COVID-19.



Making FarmHouse shine: FH Day of Giving results

The FH Day of Giving and 115th Founders' Day on April 15, 2020, was a tremendous success! We are humbled by the generosity and outreach that took place especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, in the midst of a challenging and uncertain time for the Fraternity, our students, communities and country

A total of 390 individuals donated \$118,690 for the FH Day of Giving. The majority of the donations were designated for the FH Excellence Fund.

Other highlights include:

- 46 new donors
- 85 undergraduate donors
- 28 friends of FarmHouse donated
- Donors from 40 states and two other countries made a gift
- Donors from 36 chapters
- 11 matching challenge gifts
- 56,800 total impressions on social media, reaching over 9,900 followers
- 2,800 individuals shared, liked or commented on Day of Giving and Founders' Day social media posts
- Implemented new CrowdChange giving platform with running donor honor roll list and total giving thermometer
- Two Zoom calls were hosted for FarmHouse alumni, undergraduates and friends with more than 100 people participating in the virtual events on April 15

FH Day of Giving donors enabled the Fraternity to pivot and provide new virtual learning opportunities, enhanced online educational programs, resources to connect members together and much more. Ultimately, they helped ensure the positive FarmHouse experience continues.

What does FarmHouse have to do with a cure for cancer?

BY CHRISTIAN WIGGINS, CEO, FARMHOUSE FRATERNITY

A FEW YEARS AGO, I was working late into the night and one of my colleagues encouraged me to go home. The next day he asked, "you know we're not curing cancer, right?"

It has taken a few years, but I am more confident in my answer than ever before. He's right; we're not curing cancer. But if we do our jobs right, one of the young men we recruit, he will.

I shared that story during our FarmHouse Day of Giving and Founders' Day Zoom call on April 15. However, little did I know that hours later a more exacting message with a similar tone would be shared by a donor as she made her gift to FarmHouse.

Kathy said, "thank you for all your organization does for others. Through you (FarmHouse) we were connected to Be The Match, and found a donor for a stem cell transplant for my husband Larry, who was diagnosed in August 2018 with Mantle Cell Lymphoma. We found a perfect 100 percent matching stem cell donor with Braden Wilson."

Braden (Colorado State 13) joined the Be the Match Registry as an undergraduate and went on to serve on the FarmHouse Headquarters staff for four years. During this time, he became a bone marrow donor and humbly gave without knowing who the recipient would be. A few months

ago, he met his recipient, Larry, and his wife, Kathy, who live in New York.

Kathy goes on to say, "we are so blessed for his donation of stem cells, for my husband, Larry, who is now cancer-free and will be celebrating his 2nd Re-Birthday on May 30, 2020. We were able to meet Braden this past year for the first time and he is amazing! We owe him so much for giving Larry a second chance at life. And we feel so blessed to have made a lasting friendship for life with Braden."

She added, "FarmHouse has impacted my life because it gave me my husband back. I am inspired to give knowing a fraternity like yours, does so much for others."

While I did not know Kathy would make a gift or share her story, her testament exemplifies the difference FarmHouse men make in this world. While not directly curing cancer, Braden saved Larry's life. And the story goes deeper because the Be the Match Registry was started by the late Bob Graves (Colorado State 53).

There are plenty of worthwhile causes in the world. We need a new generation of FarmHouse men ready to help who are prepared with a Fraternity experience the grounded in strong values, true friendship, research-based education and mature adult guidance. An investment in FarmHouse men means they have more opportunities to create a better world. ★





EXCELLENCE FUND

To see a list of donors to the FarmHouse Excellence Fund visit <http://bit.ly/FHAnnualReport>



BEGINNING WITH THE END IN MIND

This is a crucial time for the Fraternity and a collaborative approach is required for our shared challenges.

That is why the FarmHouse Foundation has partnered with the International Fraternity to address the tough environment on college campuses today by raising new unrestricted financial resources to fully fund grants to the Fraternity this fiscal year and into the future.

Your unrestricted support makes this possible through the FarmHouse Excellence Fund.

YOUR EXCELLENCE FUND INVESTMENT MAKES THIS AND MORE POSSIBLE . . .

- \$50,000 funds an educational staff position for one year
- \$25,000 funds one year of research to better inform our programs to meet our values and today's student's needs
- \$10,000 gives you an exclusive opportunity to attend the Power of 7 Seminar and mentor a rising leader.
- \$5,000 provides an increased level of hands-on support for one chapter
- \$2,500 gives one chapter, like yours, access to enhanced risk management education training.
- \$1,000 impacts future generations of young men through your membership in the Chairman's Club.
- \$800 sponsors one undergraduate from your chapter to attend the FarmHouse Leadership Institute.
- \$500 sends one new member to the Emerging Talent Retreat.
- \$350 underwrites one chapter's online new member education curriculum
- \$115 provides a Clifton Strengths training workshop for one FH undergraduate or volunteer
** per academic year*

Last Fiscal Year Raised for the FH Excellence Fund: \$912,775

Goal for FY 2020-21: \$925,000

How Your Investment will be used:

- 90% for immediate funding priorities
- 10% for unrestricted endowment to sustain FarmHouse's future



YOUR INVESTMENT IN ACTION NOW:

- Provides **health and safety education programs** to take care of the young men in each chapter and **protect the assets donors have invested in.**
- Enables the professional Fraternity staff to provide **virtual, enhanced and relevant training, coaching and support** to students and volunteers throughout the academic year.
- Supports **relevant research** chapters can use to make **informed decisions** about the experience they provide.
- Sends chapter officers from your chapter to the FarmHouse Leadership Institute for **hands-on training and personal development.**
- Creates curriculum and resources to provide consistent, values-based member education to **ensure the same, positive FH experience** for all chapters and young men.
- Advances premier leadership training and personal development programs **accessible to all members.**
- Offsets educational expenses for FH conferences so **registration fees are affordable** for attendees.
- Enhances **risk management** education for chapter advisors, association leaders and undergraduate members.
- Ensures staff and resources to implement **values-based programs and educational opportunities.**
- Strengthens every chapter and every member through investments in **growth and innovation.**

HOW THEY WILL BENEFIT:



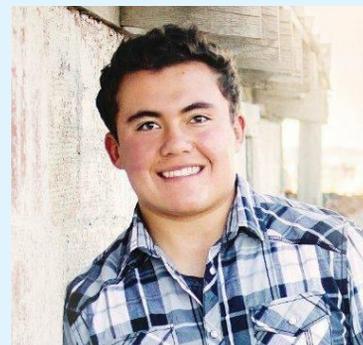
“Being in FarmHouse gives me confidence I didn’t have before I was a member. FarmHouse has also given me good morals and guidelines to live by to be the best man I can be.”

—**Benjamin Korniak**
(Purdue 19)



“FarmHouse has given me amazing experiences, important life skills and brothers I can count on. I’m excited for the day when I get to pay it forward.”

—**Grant Lach**
(Ohio State 19)



“FarmHouse inspires me to work harder and allows me to have an impact on the world, big or small, to benefit people around me.”

—**Jacob Schlagel**
(Colorado State 18)



Chairman's Club

Join this growing list of committed donors!

Membership . . .

The Chairman's Club is reserved for those who provide the strongest unrestricted support through the FH Excellence Fund to FarmHouse. Your investment ensures we can meet the top priorities of our growing, progressive and successful International Fraternity and support all FarmHouse chapters.

Last fiscal year results . . .

A record 212 alumni, friends, associations and foundation councils joined the Chairman's Club for FY 2019–20. They helped to grow the Chairman's Club membership from 156 to this impressive record number of donors who give \$1,000 or more annually to the FarmHouse Excellence Fund. Collectively, Chairman's Club members gave over \$773,000 to the FH Excellence Fund, which was over 85% of the unrestricted support of the Foundation. This generosity is incredible and so impact for our students.

Your membership invests in . . .

- An increased level of hands-on and virtual support for chapters
- Premier leadership training and personal development programs
- Creation of health and safety initiatives
- Enhanced risk management education training
- Mentor and volunteer training programs
- Research-based initiatives and new Dyad assessment
- Future growth and innovation for the Fraternity
- Staff and resources to implement values-based programs and educational opportunities

Your membership includes . . .

- Exclusive Chairman's Club pin for new members
- Special FarmHouse gift as a token of our appreciation
- Members-only quarterly virtual meeting with FarmHouse Fraternity and Foundation leadership
- Who's Who Chairman's Club Directory
- Recognition in *Pearls & Rubies*, e-newsletters, Foundation website and the Foundation's Annual Report

**View a list of 2019–2020
Chairman's Club members at**
farmhouse.org/foundation/chairmans_club.htm

Add your name to our growing list of Chairman's Club members for the FH Excellence Fund for the FY 2020–21 and move FarmHouse forward to our goal of 250 members by June 30, 2021.

LEVELS OF MEMBERSHIP

YOUNG ALUMNI

(\$500 or more to the FH Excellence Fund)
For young alumni, 30 years old or younger, you'll receive the benefits listed.

CHAIRMAN'S CLUB

(\$1,000 to \$2,499 to the FH Excellence Fund)
You'll receive the benefits listed.

FOUNDERS' CIRCLE

(\$2,500 to \$4,999 to the FH Excellence Fund)
In addition to the listed benefits, you will be invited to attend special Foundation dinners and alumni events.

SOWER SOCIETY

(\$5,000 to \$9,999 to the FH Excellence Fund)

POWER OF 7 SOCIETY

(\$10,000 to \$24,999 to the FH Excellence Fund)
In addition to the listed benefits, you will receive an exclusive invitation to attend the Power of 7 Seminar, which includes sponsorship of student mentee, 2-night hotel stay and meals.

CRESCENT SOCIETY

(\$25,000 or more to the FH Excellence Fund)
Join Master Builders, Doug Sims (IL 65) and Jim Herbert (TN 61), as donors and members of this premiere giving society. You will receive all of the listed benefits, Power of 7 Seminar invitation and special recognition.

The Power of 7 Seminar tradition to continue in 2021

Transferring wisdom, sharing life lessons, networking, celebrating brotherhood and learning across generations is at the heart of the FarmHouse Foundation's Power of 7 Seminar. It is also a unique fundraising tradition as a part of the FarmHouse Excellence Fund. Alumni who make a gift of \$10,000 or more to the FarmHouse Excellence Fund are invited to attend and mentor one of FarmHouse's top undergraduate leaders. Due to COVID-19, the 2020 Power of 7 Seminar was canceled. However, the 14th Annual Seminar will be back for March 19–21, 2021, at the historic Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D.C. Current event round table discussions, exclusive tours, special dinners and a celebration of the 2020 Master Builders are being planned for this memorable weekend this spring. Please contact Allison Rickels for more information and to reserve your seat today.





James Parochetti (Illinois 59)

Consistency is Key for James Parochetti

If the English language suddenly changed and the letter “C” was part of the FARMHOUSE acronym, the value of consistency would fit like a glove. From weekly chapter meetings to life-long friendships built starting as undergraduates, FarmHouse men are known as consistent, steady leaders in their chapters and communities.

Starting with his first gift in 1997, Jim has given consecutively for over 20 years, donating a total of 265 gifts and counting.

ONE FARMHOUSE MAN who exemplifies this trait is Dr. James “Jim” Parochetti (Illinois 59), a lifelong donor to the FarmHouse Foundation and past member of the Illinois FarmHouse Association Board. Starting with his first gift in 1997, Jim has given consecutively for over 20 years, donating a total of 265 gifts and counting. With his consistent and generous giving, he has given the highest number of gifts to the Foundation to date.

As he tells it, his financial status and giving capacity evolved over his career as a biological scientist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Jim had a successful career as a national program leader and principal weed specialist with USDA and continues to live in Falls Church, Va., only a few miles from Washington, D.C.

“When I was young and starting a career, there wasn’t much money to go around. I was very busy establishing a career. When I got near retirement, I decided to donate about \$40 every two weeks out of my paycheck to FarmHouse.”

Since retirement and turning 70 and a half years old, Jim has annually donated his required minimum distribution to the FarmHouse Foundation and other charitable organizations. He’s been a long-time donor as a Chairman’s Club member for the FarmHouse Excellence Fund as well as to his Illinois FH Chapter through the Foundation.

“I’ve donated to support my FarmHouse

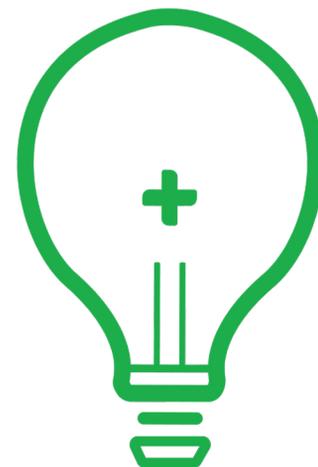
chapter at the University of Illinois as much as possible. I live about 800 miles from campus, so it makes it difficult to stay engaged with the undergraduates, but giving is one way I can be involved. And that’s also important to me.”

Sharing his advice to other alumni who want to invest in the next generation of FarmHouse leaders, Jim says to start early and let the giving accumulate over time, like a savings account.

It’s not just his financial resources Jim is stewarding for FarmHouse. He has also donated a number of sports memorabilia items for Conclave auctions to benefit the FarmHouse Excellence Fund. Most notably was a signed and authenticated Babe Ruth baseball complete with pictures of Babe and other notable baseball players, encased in a large glass display.

Jim has regularly attended FarmHouse Conclaves and alumni events in his area. He is also known for taking FarmHouse staff on personal tours of Washington, D.C., not only showing the monuments of the U.S. Capitol, but notes the beautiful landscaping and flowers surrounding them, a long-time passion and hobby of his.

“Jim has a big heart for his Fraternity and others,” says Allison Rickels, Foundation CEO. “We are grateful for his generosity and modeling the way for others in giving. His generosity over many years proves individual acts of kindness and consistent giving add up to a substantial impact.” ★



The Dyad Research Project

How a new partnership will provide donors with student-driven data

THE DYAD PROJECT sounds like the title of a science fiction novel, not the unofficial name of a partnership between a fraternity and a data consulting firm. However, just as science fiction can help provide a look into the future, partnering with Dyad Strategies will give donors to the FarmHouse Foundation a glimpse how their investment will pay off for future undergraduates.

Dyad Strategies is a consulting firm based in Pensacola, Fla. Their goal is to help organizations, like FarmHouse, tell their story. Dyad looks beyond the data collected in the past, to illustrate the culture of the organizations they serve. Dyad currently works with over a dozen fraternity and sorority headquarters on applied research and membership assessment and has conducted assessment projects on over 60 college campuses in the last four years. Their services will help FarmHouse ensure that each chapter is performing in a positive manner, and help staff collect both anecdotal and quantitative data about the organization as a whole.

Dyad is using a robust assessment strategy to measure several attributes of undergraduate membership and chapter

culture over the next five years.

In 2019, Dyad staff members visited several FarmHouse chapters to conduct focus groups and to better understand FarmHouse's culture and values.

Starting with this fall semester, every FarmHouse undergraduate will take a confidential online survey assessment to measure the impact FarmHouse membership has on their behaviors, beliefs and values. Dyad's standard assessment measures six different points of interest including fraternal brotherhood, sense of belonging, organizational commitment, alcohol use/consequences scale, attitudes toward hazing and motivations to join. Hazing and sexual assault are not tolerated in FarmHouse Fraternity.

Taken collectively, these measurements will allow Dyad to paint a clearer picture of how men experience their membership in FarmHouse, how those experiences vary in chapters, how those experiences can be improved, and how those experiences contribute to other areas of personal development. The results of the first assessment taken this fall semester will be ready to share with chapter leaders

and volunteers in January 2021.

Kahlin McKeown, Fraternity Assistant Executive Director for Student Engagement, is heavily involved in the partnership with Dyad. She said due to Dyad's large reach across the fraternal industry, FarmHouse chapters will not only be able to see how they compare internally to other FarmHouse chapters but also compared to other fraternities who participate in similar Dyad research. The Fraternity staff will then use all of this robust data to assist individual chapters and note changes of behavior over time.

"It's so interesting to have this information to then go chapters and effectively help them and coach them appropriately. This data will not only speak to retention rates but allow us to provide assistance to chapters who may be underperforming. Not only will be able to identify potential issues, but we will be able to better celebrate the positive stories of FarmHouse chapters our members," said Kahlin.

"FarmHouse is committed to providing a value-added membership experience, and we are thrilled to partner with them in that effort," said



The Dyad Research Project

Dyad CEO Dr. Gentry McCreary. “Our partnership will allow the Fraternity to focus on the things that matter most in moving the needle towards a more developmental membership experience.”

Additionally, alumni will be able to see how Foundation-sponsored leadership training and chapter consultations are impacting undergraduate members’ involvement, behavior and personal development.

“We will be able to track specific leadership programs such as FarmHouse Leadership Institute, the Power of 7 and the Emerging Talent Retreat, and compare them to what members share in their survey results and look for correlations,” said Kahlin. During the fiscal year 2019-20, the Foundation provided grants to the Fraternity for over \$17,000 in support of the work by Dyad Strategies and the expenses for this new partnership. It is the first-time the Foundation has provided a research-based grant to the Fraternity, but won’t be the last.

Thanks to the donors who gave to the FarmHouse Excellence Fund as well as two endowment funds, the International

Executive Board Endowment Fund (IEB) and the Gabriel Eckert FarmHouse Fraternity Endowment Fund, these grants were possible, and fully funded the expenses for this partnership project. The Dyad project’s annual expense will be \$21,000 per year as a four-year longitudinal assessment project, which the Foundation Trustees have committed to be funded by donations to the FarmHouse Excellence Fund.

Gabriel Eckert (Kansas State ’95), IEB President, spoke very highly of the new partnership during a Zoom Q&A call on April 15, which celebrated Founders’ Day and the Foundation’s Annual Day of Giving.

“We believe this partnership with Dyad will be a valuable tool to enhance our goal as a Fraternity—to be Builders of Men. I’m excited because this research project will provide new data so we can clearly articulate the outcomes achieved through FarmHouse programs, services and experiences, and link this directly back to our communications with donors to thank them for the investments they are making. I think donors will be really pleased.” ★

- These acts determine
- Building men is more than our motto; ultimate purpose.
- We should improve and expand
- We hold both chapters and individuals for the choices they make.
- Through education

Donor Profile



The glue that brings us closer together

The Fraase family establishes leadership Endowment Fund

Like hundreds of FarmHouse men before and since, Micah Fraase (North Dakota State 09) attended a number of Fraternity leadership conferences as an undergraduate. Micah's older brother, Justin (North Dakota State 05), encouraged him to make the most of his FarmHouse experience and take advantage of its leadership development opportunities. His parents, Ron (North Dakota State 75) and Gwen Fraase did the same by staying involved with the NDSU FH Chapter and championing both their sons to be involved as much as possible.

Like most parents, Ron and Gwen hoped to instill solid values in their three children, Justin, Andrew and Micah. The pair met at North Dakota State University, where Gwen was part of the FarmHouse (former) little sisters

program. Today, Ron farms and Gwen is a nurse, living in Buffalo, N.D.

Not only was FarmHouse a crucial part of home life for the Fraases, but many of their family friends were from their undergraduate days. Both generations attest to their friends' influence on the family. Gwen said, "Having the quality friends after graduation that we got to know in FarmHouse was majorly influential."

Micah added, "The majority of people we hung out with as a family were because of my parents' connections to FarmHouse, I had no clue."

Ron and Gwen never pushed FarmHouse on their sons, but when Justin and Micah went to college, they found something familiar. "We were raised with FarmHouse morals," said Micah. "When you got there [the chapter house] and you visited, you walked into a place just like how you were raised. Sometimes the best talking is no talking at all, it's just going back to what you know. What we knew is what

FarmHouse taught. It was a perfect fit."

Micah went on to serve as a vice president of recruitment and director of new member education as well as was involved on campus and in other roles in the chapter. Justin was an involved FH member as well.

However, it wasn't a fit for the middle brother, Andrew, who chose not to join the Fraternity. This gave Micah the luxury of being able to pick the brains of a brother who joined FarmHouse and one who didn't. However, they say Andrew's connections to FarmHouse may outnumber the rest of the family—three of his former college roommates are FarmHouse members, as are two brother-in-laws. Ron said Andrew was so familiar with the chapter house he would often end up giving tours at FarmHouse events.

As a graduating senior, Micah was not only thinking about his career aspirations and what was next, but how he could help others attend FarmHouse conferences, like he was afforded. Only months after graduating in 2013, Micah started giving monthly to the FH Leadership Institute with the Foundation then he reached out to Allison Rickels, Foundation CEO, about how his family could establish a family endowment fund.

Micah, who is now a park foreman with West Fargo (N.D.) District said, "Not only did FarmHouse help us become who we are, but in my parent's case, it helped them raise kids with the ideals and values that came from FarmHouse."

After much discussion, in 2015, the family started the Fraase Family Leadership Endowment Fund, which provides funding for members of the North Dakota State FH Chapter to attend FarmHouse leadership training programs, with first priority for the FH Leadership Institute.

"I felt that we had a unique and interesting scenario of having two brothers,

a dad and our mom as a part of the little sister program and meeting because of the chapter," said Micah. "I have an aunt and uncle who were part of FarmHouse as well. So at some point, we actually were debating

Recurring Giving

Join the growing list of loyal donors extending their philanthropy one bite at a time. The Foundation's Recurring Giving (Electronic Fund Transfer) program allows you to have money withdrawn directly from your bank account or charge to a credit card without having to write monthly checks or one more substantial check. The program also allows you to choose how your gift is designated.



Donor Profile

how far out we should go with this. To keep it simple, we felt the best way to go was to keep it in our immediate family.”

“All of us are major advocates for leadership,” said Justin, who is Vice President of Enrollment, Communications and Marketing at Northern State University in Aberdeen, S.D. “I think leadership just clicked for us to invest in.”

Justin also explained some of the best leaders from his time in FarmHouse weren’t the strongest academically, yet they possessed the subjective traits that make high-quality leaders.

Micah agreed, “Being a great leader doesn’t mean you’re always the one calling the shots and making the decisions. Being a great leader is being able to follow and listen, and those are skills that every individual in this world should possess more of.”

Ron was struck by the relationship between leadership and family life, specifically in raising a family. “Our ability as parents, there’s a certain amount of leadership in that,” Ron pointed out.

Since starting their Fund in 2015, the Fraase family have generously added to it often and consistently through the Foundation’s Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) program with the brothers giving monthly and Ron quarterly. In 2018, their Fund became permanently

endowed, and during the FY 2019-20, their Fund awarded its first grant to help sponsor the NDSU FH Chapter to attend the FH Leadership Institute.

The Fraases pointed to the uniqueness of all their FarmHouse connections when discussing why they began their endowment fund, but also advised potential endowment donors to not delay their philanthropy. “The sooner you get it up and you get it running, you’re going to make an impact,” said Micah.

The Foundation’s EFT giving program provides an easy way for the Fraase family to give. “It’s a convenience thing and easy to do,” said Justin. “I don’t think either Micah or I give huge amounts each month, but it adds up over time and that’s the whole point. It’s a nice reminder every month you are able to give to something that hopefully will continue to give back throughout the years.”

Contributing to their endowment fund as a family takes away some internal family competitiveness said Ron. “By doing it as a family, you accomplish things you probably wouldn’t do individually.”

The Fraases are also adamant about not just giving financial resources, but also time and energy as well. Micah serves as a chapter advisor with the North Dakota State FH Chapter. Justin suggests alumni can get involved by helping recruit for

chapters, passing along names of high school students they know and think would make great FarmHouse men.

“I am proud any time they are engaged in FarmHouse, and I am happy the boys found as much enrichment from FarmHouse as we have,” said Gwen about her sons’ continued involvement. Additionally, the family emphasizes starting small with philanthropy, which makes it easy to grow over time.

Justin added, “Our family finds it important to invest in the future of FarmHouse because it is the glue that brings us closer together.”

For families interested in establishing an endowment fund together, the Fraases recommend it. “Start where you can and then build when you’re able and you’ll make an impact,” said Justin.

Micah added, “If there are more scenarios like us, or even just individual, creating an endowment fund is a win-win. You make an impact on a college student’s life and you get to see your family’s name as investors permanently.”

Justin summarized, “We want to invest in tomorrow’s leaders because they’re out there, they’re highly talented and we want to help those who are going to continue to help their families, their communities and the Fraternity. This is truly an investment in the future.” ★

How to establish an Endowment Fund

Endowment funds are permanently restricted so only the income from the funds is to be used for the purpose agreed to with the donor when the Foundation accepts the gift.

- Named endowment funds can be established at \$10,000 or more, which can be made in a lump sum, spread over up to five years or as an estate pledge commitment.
- An endowment fund supports your gift intentions in perpetuity and can be designated to benefit the International Fraternity or your chapter such as:
 - Leadership training programs
 - Educational and research initiatives
 - Academic scholarships
 - Chapter housing
 - The FH Excellence Fund
- Historically the Foundation’s return on the endowed funds has averaged 8-10 percent, and has paid out three to five percent for qualified educational programs and projects.
- Currently, for endowment funds eligible to fund a pay-out, the spending allowance pay-out rate is set at 3.5% with a 1.75% administrative expense, for a total annual withdrawal of 5.25%, but is subject to change annually at the Trustees’ discretion.
- Endowment funds with a principal value of \$100,000 and above have a 1% administrative expense and endowments over \$1,000,000 have a 0.5% administrative expense.
- The administrative expense is not an investment brokerage fee, but rather used to help off-set accounting, legal fees and staff time spent administering endowment funds. Growth above the pay-out ratio is added to the endowment fund’s principal balance to help offset years when investment returns are less than the pay-out ratio. When the principal in the fund grows, so will future distributions.
- The Foundation Staff will work with you to create a Fund Agreement to ensure your gift intentions are fulfilled when the gift comes to fruition and in perpetuity.

Student Profile



Tony Phan (far right) joins fellow NDSU undergraduate recipients of scholarships for the fall 2020 semester.

Why Giving Matters . . . My FarmHouse Experience

BY TONY PHAN (NORTH DAKOTA STATE 19)

GROWING UP, the question of what my plans after high school were, never came to my mind. It was the thought of surviving every day in an abusive environment. I was never given the choice to express my own values due to my childhood. After school activities and clubs weren't an option for me because I had to take care of my siblings. After years of abuse, I was fortunate enough to enter the foster care program during my 10th grade year of high school and leave the nightmare that was my childhood.

Although, I have found a loving family that supports my college career, I find that I'm not nearly as experienced as the average child when it comes to being

a respectful person. I only learned so much as a kid since I had to self-teach myself while trying to survive. Doing so only got me so far since I also had to try and not become what my parents wanted me to be, which is to repeat the abuse onto my future family.

When I first visited and had dinner with the North Dakota State FarmHouse Chapter, I saw a chapter filled with gentlemen who dressed and acted so formal. After talking to them during dinner about what FarmHouse represents and meant to them, I realized joining FarmHouse would be my best decision since my arrival at North Dakota State University (NDSU).

The Fraternity's values, conduct and characteristics align with my own since I'm still learning how to continually improve myself, and with the help of my brothers, they will play a big part in helping me get where I want to be as a person. I also want to further improve my social and moral characteristics that FarmHouse is willing to provide.

I have worked hard to attend NDSU with all of the money I saved from taking a year off between high school and college. I am the first in my family to go to college. I am confident that I will be the first in my family to graduate in four years as long as I can keep up with my studies. Being successful after college is what gives me motivation to keep going.

Not only does the scholarship I received help me financially, it also helps me to move a step closer to making my dreams become a reality. I can't thank you enough for bestowing me with this scholarship. I'm very grateful for FarmHouse to assist me in my academic career and my personal development. ★

Tony is a sophomore at NDSU, majoring in finance, originally from Grand Forks, N.D. During the 2019-20 academic year, Tony was selected as one of seven recipients to receive a \$3,000 scholarship for incoming freshmen from the NDSU FarmHouse Incoming Freshmen Scholarship. He joined the chapter a few weeks after being selected for the scholarship, which is open for any young man to apply who attends NDSU. He lives in the chapter house this academic year and was recently awarded the NDSU FH Sophomore Scholarship. These incoming freshmen scholarship recipients, like Tony, demonstrated the characteristics of grit: resilience, strong work ethic, direction, desire for success and perseverance, which are consistent with the values of FarmHouse.



Your Will: A Reflection of Your Life

AS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT legal documents you will ever create, a will dictates how you want your assets distributed after you are gone. Beyond legalities, a will is a reflection of your life. It reveals who and what mattered most to you, and it's the final gesture by which you will be remembered.

A well planned will relieves family members from having to guess your final wishes during their time of grief, and it ensures they are taken care of in the manner you specify. When you provide for an organization, such as the FarmHouse Foundation, in your will, you also extend your legacy of generosity to your FarmHouse family as well.

A will has extraordinary potential, yet nearly 60 percent of Americans how no will. Are you one of the 60 percent? If so, consider what a will can do for you:

- Name a guardian for minor children
- Make financial arrangements for family
- Protect your business
- Forgive a debt
- Direct the division of your property
- Choose the executor for your estate
- Reduce estate administration expenses
- Provide for charitable organizations

Creating a Will: Step by Step

1. List all of your major assets.
2. Decide which individuals and organizations you want to receive specific possessions or share of your assets.
3. Contact an attorney who specializes in estate planning.
4. Determine who will be your executor.
5. Have your attorney draft your will.
6. Sign and date the will before witnesses.
7. Keep your original will in a safe place. Make sure others can access it.

Already Have a Will?

Make sure it's up-to-date. Life changes such as the following should trigger a review of your will:

- Birth
- Death
- Change in marital status
- Increased/decreased estate value
- Move to another state

Want to Add FarmHouse to Your Will?

You don't need to create a new will. Simply ask your attorney to prepare a codicil, a document that amends your original will. This is a common way to make minor changes. Our FarmHouse Foundation Staff can also work with you to prepare a Testamentary Pledge to outline your estate gift intentions and how your gift should be designated when the gift comes to fruition.

Join the FarmHouse Legacy Society

We would love to talk with you about how your future gift can make a meaningful difference for FarmHouse undergraduate leaders.

For example, when you include

FarmHouse in your estate and share that information with us, you will join other inspirational donors as a member of our FarmHouse Legacy Society. A deferred gift of any size or type brings an invitation to this prestigious giving society.

To see the list of Legacy

Society members, visit <https://farmhouse.planmylegacy.org/legacy-society>.

Including FarmHouse in your estate will give future generations of FarmHouse men opportunities to learn and grow

both in and out of the classroom through leadership training, relevant educational programs, scholarships and a home away from home. Estate giving is the ultimate gift and a lasting tribute to your interest and continued support of FarmHouse, and an inspiration for others to follow. ★



SEEING IS BELIEVING!

On the FarmHouse Foundation's Plan My Legacy website, you can:

- Find the right gift for you based on your age, assets or the amount you would like to give.
- Learn about ways to give and how to fund your gift.
- Download brochures and watch videos on popular types of gifts.
- See your potential benefits with our Gift Illustrator.
- Get your plans in motion with our Personal Estate Planning Kit.
- See the names of FH Legacy Society donors.

www.farmhouse.planmylegacy.org

CASH CONTRIBUTIONS

We greatly appreciate your loyal support! To make a gift today, fill out the enclosed donor card and mail it back in the provided reply envelope with your check or credit card information.

STOCK GIFTS

Appreciated stocks and mutual funds can be transferred electronically from your brokerage account or sent through the mail if held in certificate form.

ONLINE DONATIONS

Visit bit.ly/FHGIVE to make a gift online to any fund and at any time via PayPal's secure donation system. PayPal accepts all major credit cards. You can also make a gift and see your donor record on MyHerdBook.

EASY GIVING PLAN

Budget your investment by setting up a recurring gift, giving each month or quarter rather than a lump sum payment.

GIVING OPPORTUNITIES TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

DONOR ADVISED FUNDS

A donor advised fund gives you the flexibility to recommend how much and how often money is granted to the FarmHouse Foundation and other qualified charities. You can recommend a grant or recurring grants now to make an immediate impact or use your fund as a tool for future charitable gifts.

MEMORIAL & HONORARY GIFTS

To make a tribute gift, indicate this on your check or include a note in the gift designation field for an online donation.

GIFTS OF GRAIN

Those with a career in production agriculture can make a gift of grain or other commodities and reduce their taxable income.

OTHER GIFTS

The Foundation Staff is happy to answer your questions and assist with other gifts such as donor advised funds, life insurance, charitable gift annuities and planned giving. To qualify for a tax benefit in 2020 (when you itemize deductions on your income tax return), you must make your gift by December 31. To learn more, visit FarmHouse.org/Foundation.

CARES ACT FOR 2020

The new CARES Act expands charitable giving incentives allows taxpayers who take the standard deduction to donate up to \$300 to qualified charities, like the FarmHouse Foundation. For those who itemize, the law allows for gifts to charities be deducted up to 100% of your adjusted gross income for 2020.

CHARITABLE IRA GIVING

Individuals age 70.5 or older can make gifts up to \$100,000 per year using funds transferred directly from their IRA to the FarmHouse Foundation without paying taxes on the distribution.

MATCHING GIFTS

Your employer may have a matching gift program that can multiply your support. Please ask your employer for the necessary forms.

ENDOWMENTS

Permanent funds may be established and named through gifts or pledges of \$10,000 or more.

ESTATE GIVING

Including FarmHouse in your estate plans is leaving the ultimate legacy. Estate gifts include bequests, insurance policies, charitable remainder trusts and gift annuities. Doing so, you will be included as a member of the FarmHouse Legacy Society. To learn more visit www.farmhouse.planmylegacy.org.

GIFTS TO A CHAPTER FUND

You may designate your gift for an endowment fund that is designate for a specific chapter as well as your chapter's foundation council or building fund.

Alumni NEWS

CLEMSON



Cody Miller (Clemson 04) married his wife, Lindsay, on June 20, 2020. They have been together since 2015, and, despite the pandemic, managed to have a small ceremony with their parents and sisters present. They are building a house and loving married life.

IOWA STATE



The Fichter Family

L to R: Chris Mandt (Iowa State 15), Adam Fichter (Iowa State 12), Austin Fichter (Iowa State 12), Corby Fichter, III (Iowa State 78) along with their spouses.

Congratulations to the Fichter Family. They were selected as the 2020 Iowa State University Family of the Year.

In April 2020, **Warren Clark** (IA 77) was recognized for helping connect Iowa State University College of Agriculture and Life Science experts with nationwide media to provide science-based information during the pandemic reaching more than 1.7 billion people.

KANSAS STATE

Drew Goering (KS 07) started a new job as an Account Executive for Hudl on May 4, 2020.

MINNESOTA



Lance Sexton (Minnesota 14) married his college sweetheart, Kayla, on May 16, 2020.

MISSISSIPPI STATE



Robert Hill (Mississippi State 13) was named Lauderdale County's winner in the Tennessee Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Achievement Award for 2020 based on his 2019 farming and financial records.

MISSOURI

Dr. Joe Eagleman (Missouri 56) had two books published in 2019, *Poetry of Love and Life* and *Monumental Moments*.

NORTH DAKOTA STATE



Jacob Lardy (North Dakota State 14) and wife, Jinny, welcomed Etta Lou into this world in March 2020.

OKLAHOMA STATE



Dr. Barry Pollard (Oklahoma State 70) is the recipient of the Governor's Outstanding Achievement Award in Agriculture. He became the 23rd inductee into the Oklahoma Agriculture Hall of Fame, the state's most prestigious agriculture award in July 2020.



Cody Cramer (Oklahoma State 08) began a new job with FarmHouse International Fraternity on March 3, 2020. He serves as Assistant Executive Director of Communications and Alumni Engagement.



Kyle Hilbert (Oklahoma State 13) was named to NextGen's "30 Under 30" list for Policy and Public Service. This award recognizes young professionals of outstanding excellence in Oklahoma. Hilbert serves in the State House of Representatives for District 29.



Scott Nemecek (Oklahoma State 82) joined the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education and the Oklahoma FFA Association as the state's seventh Agricultural Education Program Manager and FFA Advisor in May 2020.

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE



Matt Dahle (South Dakota State 13) married his wife, Karen, on June 20, 2020, in a small ceremony held on our front porch. Spencer Chase (South Dakota State 11) was the officiant and five of the six groomsmen were South Dakota State FarmHouse alumni.

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS



Thomas Marten (Southern Illinois 11) began serving as the Executive Director of the Angus Foundation at American Angus Association on January 1, 2020. He previously served as the director of the FH Excellence fund for the FH Foundation.

TENNESSEE



Matthew Holt (Tennessee 12) received an Award of Distinction in Student Services from the 2020 AACP Walmart Scholars Program at the South College School of Pharmacy in July 2020.

TEXAS TECH

Troy Marshall (Texas Tech 86) was named the Director of Commercial Programs for the American Angus Association on July 10, 2020.

TROY



Aaron Dixon (Troy 17) graduated in May 2020. He was hired as a Photographer/Videographer with Valley News Live in Fargo, North Dakota. He made the trek of 1450 miles to Fargo, N.D, to start his career.



Ben Bradley (Troy 04) was promoted to a vice president of Branches and Contact Center in July 2018. He was married in March 2019 to Megan and had his first child (Gibson) in January 2020. Ben and Megan are expecting their second January 2021.

WISCONSIN-PLATTEVILLE

Bill Kuhn (Wisconsin 89) was inducted into the Illinois 4-H Hall of Fame in August 2020.

WYOMING

Jack Berger (Wyoming 73) and wife, Diana, were inducted into Wyoming Agriculture Hall of Fame on August 12, 2020.★

SAVE THE DATE!

Join us for a regional **Founders' Day** celebration in your area. We plan to host six to eight regional happy hour events to coincide with Founders' Day on **April 15, 2021**.

If you are interested in planning or hosting, please reach out to Jeanine Lane at jeanine@farmhouse.org.

Look for more information as we approach. We hope to see you then!



LOCATIONS UNDER CONSIDERATION:

Atlanta, GA
Birmingham, AL
Dallas, TX
Denver, CO
Des Moines, IA
Indianapolis, IN
Kansas City, MO
Lexington, KY
Minneapolis, MN
Oklahoma City, OK
Omaha, NE
Washington D.C.

IN Memoriam

Owen J. Newlin (Iowa State 50), Master Builder



Owen J. Newlin (Iowa State 50) died on July 12, 2020, at Wesley Acres in Des Moines, Iowa. Born February 6, 1928, in Des Moines, Iowa, Owen dedicated his entire life to his family and

helping farmers feed the world. While a student at Iowa State University, he met Doris Jean ("D.J.") Coxon, and they were married on July 19, 1952. They had four children. Newlin was elected vice president of Pioneer Hi-Bred International in 1978, senior vice president in 1986, and he retired from Pioneer in 1993. He served as a director of the company from 1963 to 1999. He received a B.S. in Agronomy and a M.S. in Crop Production from Iowa State University. He also earned a Ph.D. in plant breeding and genetics from the University of Minnesota in 1955. He was a 1974 graduate of Harvard University's Advanced Management Program.

Newlin was a long-time board member of the American Seed Research Foundation serving as president from 1982-1984. He was also chair of the Corn and Sorghum Division of the American

Seed Trade Association (ASTA) in 1975-1976, Past chair of the subcommittee for ASTA Strategic and Allied Sponsors and served as president of ASTA from 1985-1986. He was named an honorary member of ASTA in 1991 and received the first and only Lifetime Industry Achievement Award from ASTA in 2016.

He was a board member of the U.S. Grains Council from 1970 to 2002 and served as its chair in 1978-1979. He received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the U.S. Grains Council in 2005. In 1987 he was given the Distinguished Award from the Iowa Corn Growers Association. In 1993, Newlin received the President's Award from the National Corn Growers Association, and in 2011 he received the first Iowa Corn Growers Lifetime Achievement Award.

Newlin served two six-year terms on the Board of Regents, State of Iowa and was president for eight years. From 1978-1983 Newlin was the chair for the Committee in Support of New Agronomy Facilities at Iowa State University. He was president of the ISU Achievement Foundation from 1985-1986, and he chaired the successful ISU Partnership for Prominence campaign from 1988-1993. He was a member of the Iowa State University Foundation Board of Governors. He

received the Iowa State University Alumni Recognition Medal, the Floyd Andre Award for Contributions to Agriculture, the Distinguished Achievement Award in 1988 and the Alumni Merit Award for outstanding contributions to human welfare in 1990. He is a Sustaining Lifetime Member of the ISU Alumni Association and Past Member of the ISU Memorial Union Board of Directors. And in 1995 he received the Distinguished Achievement Award from the University of Minnesota.

In 1981, Newlin served as chair of the National Sponsors Board of the Future Farmers of America Foundation. In 1981 he received that organization's Honorary American Farmer Degree, and in 1988 Newlin received the VIP Citation from the National Future Farmers of America. He received the Friend of Agriculture Award in 1981 from the Iowa Department of Agriculture and the Iowa Chapter of the National Agricultural Marketing Association (NAMA). In 1983, he received NAMA's Agri-Marketer of the Year Award.

A memorial scholarship fund for study abroad has been started by many of Owens' FH brothers in tribute to him with the FH Foundation. Jim Tobin (IA 76) created a tribute video for Owen you may view here: bit.ly/NewlinTribute ★

IN Memoriam

The following are notices received by the FarmHouse International Office between March 4, 2020 and September 1, 2020.

Listed by—Name (Initiation year); Death; 0/0/0000; Age at time of death; Resided in

Arkansas

DONALD A WARD (58);
4/15/2019; 80;
Fayetteville, Ark.

BILLY M LONG (58); 2/12/2019;
82; Tichnor, Ark.

RICHARD E IVY (63);
6/24/2020; 76;
Loogootee, Ind.

Colorado State

DONALD G RAMEY (61);
2/21/2020; 77;
Apex, N.C.

GEORGE F CHANDLER (49); 7/2/2020; 89;
Longmont, Colo.

Idaho

HAYDEN P DOHERTY (63); 3/10/2020;
76; Hayden; Idaho

Illinois

ROBERT L RANDALL (51);
10/8/2018; 87;
Chrisman, Ill.

GORDON L ROPP (52);
4/14/2020; 87;
Normal, Ill.

WILBERT (WIL) N STEVENSON (39); 6/6/2020; 99;
Bloomington, Ill.

JAMES D ELMER (54);
7/14/2020; 86; N
Little Rock, Ark.

DEAN D URICK (41); 2/4/2020; 97;
Geneseo, Ill.

Iowa State

STEPHEN M HEINTZ (67);
11/30/2019; 72;
Carrollton, Texas

HAROLD R CRAWFORD (68); 5/27/2020;
95; Ames, Iowa

WALLACE E HUFFMAN (64); 6/10/2020;
78; Ames, Iowa

OWEN J NEWLIN (50);
7/12/2020; 92; Des
Moines, Iowa

MICHAEL A FOWLER (62);
8/9/2020; 77;
Urbandale, Iowa

Kansas State

EDWARD W MCGINNESS (47); 2/6/2018; 95;
Marion, Kan.

MERLIN L DENNIS (52);
4/24/2020; 88;
Centennial, Colo.

BILLY (BILL) A CLARK (57);
6/25/2020; 84;
Barnard, Kan.

Kentucky

RYAN P CADOTTE (18);
3/25/2020; 22;
Freehold, N.J.

ALAN F HAMILTON (77); 7/23/2020;
61; Frankfort, Ky.

Michigan State

ZACKARY A SNIDER (10);
2/28/2020; 28;
Hart, Mich.

DONALD R HANNIGAN (62); 4/26/2020;
79; Muskegon,
Mich.

DONALD M WALLIS (51);
7/15/2020; 89;
Rudyard, Mich.

Minnesota

STEPHEN E DILLE (65);
3/25/2020; 75;
Litchfield, Minn.

CHARLES O BORSTAD (62);
4/15/2020; 77;
Sioux Falls, S.D.

LEE D SANDAGER (46); 6/8/2020; 94;
Marine on St Croix,
Minn.

MILTON L PIETZ (47);
5/6/2020; 93;
Ankeny, Iowa

Mississippi State

KENNEY EARL GRAY (64);
4/16/2020; 80; The
Woodlands, Texas

Missouri

ALBERT D ADDLEMAN (57); 11/26/2016;
79; Springfield, Mo.

KENNETH E PRUITT (51);
4/6/2020, 79; Mesa;
Ariz.

JAMES L TIPPET (46);
5/3/2020; 93; La
Porte City, Iowa

Nebraska

DONALD W KELLOGG (47);
3/11/2020; 96;
Phoenix, Ariz.

STEVEN R MESSERSMITH (69); 5/28/2020;
70; Alliance, Neb.

JERRY F SVOBODA (56);
5/28/2020; 83;
Bellvue, Colo.

JAMES D JOBMAN (63);
6/29/2020; 76;
Gothenburg, Neb.

Ohio State

JAMES F WISE (57); 5/18/2020;
86; Avon, OH

LOWELL E MOSER (62);
4/27/2019; 77;
Lincoln, Neb.

Oklahoma

GUY R BREHM (57); 8/29/2010;
Chickasha, Okla.

SAMUEL F CHEESMAN (53); 5/30/2020;
87; Pine Bluff, Ark.

RICHARD ENIX (72);
5/21/2020; 67;
Oklahoma City,
Okla.

JON H PATTON (53);
5/22/2020; 85;
Stillwater, Okla.

NATHAN A BRALY (93);
8/7/2020; 46;
Houston, Texas

DONALD I SCHWAB (58);
8/18/2020; 81;
Copeland, Kan.

Purdue

GEORGE W; THRASHER (52); 3/25/2020;
88; Lafayette, Ind.

NORMAN C PALMER (61);
4/17/2020; 78;
Jensen Beach, Fla.

ROBERT L SPULLER (56);
5/30/2020; 82;
Hickory, N.C.

PAUL R JONES (57); 11/24/2019;
80; Newburgh, Ind.

STEVEN C BEERING (94);
4/4/2020; 87;
Carmel, Ind.

Tennessee

HARRY A NEWLIN (59);
10/8/2019; 84;
Knoxville, Tenn.

FarmHouse Photo



FarmHouse members gather at “The Columns” in the quad at the University of Missouri. Reestablishment at Mizzou began in fall 2020. As of Sept. 20, 2020, 30 members had been initiated. The chapter is planning for a formal chartering late spring 2021.

FARMHOUSE FRATERNITY

7306 NW Tiffany Springs Parkway, Suite 310
Kansas City, MO 64153-9905

Return Service Requested

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ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
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FARMHOUSE *is moving*

NEW HQ ADDRESS:
1021 Jefferson St.
Kansas City, MO 64105

effective January 1, 2021