

Pearls & Rubies

THE MAGAZINE OF FARMHOUSE FRATERNITY

YEAR 113 / SUMMER 2018



OF
OFFICE PG 22

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“We must realize that we are not immune from the issues facing other fraternities.”

In light of this, the decision to close our first chapter was a necessary one. It is a decision fully supported by both the chapter advisors at the University of Missouri and the Missouri FarmHouse Association. It was, quite simply, the right thing to do.

We are very optimistic that when we return to the University of Missouri in the fall of 2020, we will build a new chapter that honors our founders and exemplifies our shared principles. We are grateful to have the support and guidance of many engaged and passionate alumni members in this effort.

THIS ISSUE OF *PEARLS & RUBIES* CONTINUES THE LANDSCAPE SERIES, highlighting the issues facing the fraternal movement today (page 4). To say that today’s campus climate for fraternities is challenging is an understatement. We are hearing all too often of irresponsible, unethical and immoral actions by fraternity men. Hazing, alcohol, drugs, sexual abuse, mental health and non-inclusivity are a few of the many issues all fraternities must deal with—and that includes FarmHouse.

On March 18, 2018, the Fraternity’s International Executive Board voted unanimously to close our chapter at the University of Missouri. The chapter was in violation of our Fraternity’s hazing and alcohol policies. Furthermore, during our investigation, many in chapter leadership positions routinely failed to be fully honest with the International Fraternity. It became evident the overall chapter culture had drifted from our founding principles. These were the very same principles first put in place 113 years ago at the University of Missouri:

“The object of our Fraternity is to promote good fellowship, to encourage studiousness and to inspire its members in seeking the best in their chosen lines of study as well as in life. Progress shall mark our every step; the spirit of congeniality shall reign at all times; and every member shall be honest with himself as with his brothers. Men elected to our membership are considered to be of good moral character, to be high in scholarship, to have the capacity for meeting and making friends and to give promise of service to their fellowmen and to the world. To be and become such may at times require a sacrifice of time, pleasures and comforts.”

These are more than just words; they are a way of life. They inspire us, and they challenge us to a life of continual improvement. As our Founding Father D. Howard Doane wrote in our Master Builder Creed, “He best builds lives of other men, who starts from within.” We cannot lose sight of this ideal.

In order for our Fraternity to continue making a positive difference in the fraternal movement, we must realize that we are not immune from the issues facing other fraternities. We must “start from within.” It is our hope every chapter views the closure of our first chapter as an opportunity to do just that. The actions of each of our chapters reflects on the entire FarmHouse brotherhood. Let us ensure our operations and culture always align with our FarmHouse values.

As you’ll read throughout this issue, FarmHouse is still bettering the world in many ways. Academically, most of our chapters continue to rank at or near the top on their respective campuses. Our Fraternity continues to build men holistically, preparing undergraduates for a promise of service to the world. And, as the theme of this issue showcases, FarmHouse men are also shaping and creating positive outdoor experiences to better our world—as landscapers, park rangers, business owners and much more. There is much to be proud of and to celebrate as a Fraternity.

In that spirit, I encourage you to come to Conclave this July 25–28, in Kansas City, Mo. At Conclave, we will celebrate the accomplishments of our chapters, associations, undergraduate members and alumni. We will strengthen our bonds of brotherhood through exciting networking and educational opportunities. And we will continue to have frank conversation about the future of FarmHouse Fraternity.

Fraternally,

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

PRESIDENT@FARMHOUSE.ORG

FarmHouse Flashback



Delegates to the fourth Biennial Conclave held in Madison, Wis., in 1923, pictured above: Fred H. Paulsen (Kansas State 21), E. Grant Lantz (Nebraska 20), Robert E. Holland (Nebraska 15), Claude B. Hutchison (Missouri 05), William Dickson (Illinois year *unknown*), Marvin A. Schaars (Wisconsin 21), Cecil E. Gates (Illinois 20) and David Meeker (Missouri 21). The first Conclave was held in 1917 at the University of Missouri. With no pictures taken at the first, this is the earliest known picture of Conclave delegates.

Calendar

July 25-28, 2018

50th Biennial Conclave
Kansas City, Mo.

September 28, 2018

Nebraska House
Dedication
Lincoln, Neb.

September 29, 2018

Kansas State
Groundbreaking
Manhattan, Kan.

November 9-11, 2018

Fraternity International
Executive Board Meeting
Kansas City, Mo.

November 15-18, 2018

Foundation Board of
Trustees Meeting
Omaha, Neb.

January 3-6, 2019

FarmHouse Leadership
Institute/GROWS
Kansas City, Mo.

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Pearls&Rubies

Winter 2018/19

Send story ideas to
jared@farmhouse.org
by August 1, 2018.



COVER

Pictured: Todd Weigand (Idaho 97), completing the first ever paraglide over Hell's Canyon, located on the Idaho and Oregon state border.

Pearls&Rubies

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Stuart Fraser (Southern Illinois 11)

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These entrepreneurs are taking their work outside—from putt-putt to paragliding.

28 Free Range Childhood

As the founder of the Arbor Day Foundation, John Rosenow's (Nebraska 68) passion for the next generation of conservationists didn't stop once he retired.

30 Follow in the Footsteps

These alumni and undergraduates have more in common than pearls and rubies and are preserving the earth one step at a time.

34 More than a Hammock

For Greg McEvelly (Texas Tech 04), building a better hammock was just a small part of starting his outdoor gear company, Kammok.



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This is part four of *The Landscape*, a six part series focused on the current topics relevant on our college campuses.

There's No Room in This House for Hazing



Understanding the challenge, our role in the conversation and establishing our next steps . . .

I HAVE SERVED AS YOUR CEO for one year and, while I have thoroughly enjoyed this experience, it's also been one of the most tumultuous for the industry and for FarmHouse. Within months of accepting the role, I began working with our Missouri Chapter and Association, including chapter advisor Jeff Hilbrenner, on addressing inconsistencies in our values within the chapter's membership. However, it wouldn't be until a joint investigation with the University that we would understand how deep the cultural issues really were. Not only were the students abusing alcohol, but hazing was taking place in the chapter, often in an organized manner.

Shortly after the Fraternity's International Executive Board made the decision to close the chapter, I was asked by an alumnus, "How do you really know they were hazing? What constitutes hazing anyways? Why didn't they stop it? In my day . . ." I provided information that I had learned in my professional career, but still felt numb about the interaction.

All of his questions are valid, but I recognized the important lesson wasn't to understand how we got to this point, but rather how do we avoid it going forward? I asked myself about how FarmHouse's definition of hazing is different, what we did to educate students, what resources we would need to address the challenge and how to engage our partners in the process?

To help frame the conversation I asked my good friends and industry experts Kim

Novak of NovakTalks and Dan Wrona of RISE Partnerships to help me (and us) understand the landscape we exist within and what our next steps should be. In the coming pages, you will be provided information about the Missouri Chapter closure through the lens of a chapter advisor and information about hazing from two experts within our industry.

While this will not solve our challenges, it will be a launch point from where we can grow. In the coming months, we will roll out more robust volunteer recruitment and training efforts, additional education for students, and added staff resources for our undergraduates and alumni.

In my first year, I've had the chance to meet hundreds of alumni and students and better understand the organization's values and its challenges. I've learned and experienced firsthand FarmHouse is an organization with humble members and driven leadership. I am confident we're capable of rising to meet the road ahead of us despite being part of an industry that appears to be in crisis. I look forward to our shared work ahead and a renewed partnership to be the Builder of Men that a complicated world desperately needs.

CHRISTIAN WIGGINS

CEO, FarmHouse International Fraternity
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"Hazing is . . .

Any activity designed for purpose of securing membership, acceptance or continued membership and acceptance into a group, team, or club that:

might reasonably be expected to bring embarrassment or psychological harm to the individual;

might reasonably be expected to bring physical harm to the individual;

might reasonably be expected to degrade or otherwise compromise the dignity of the individual;

might reasonably be expected to require an unreasonable or inordinate amount of the individual's time, or in any manner impair the individual's academic efforts;

compels an individual to participate in any activity which is illegal;

And above all, the participant's willingness to participate is irrelevant."

—Kim Novak,
CEO, NovakTalks



The Landscape

“National studies say nine out of 10 students don’t recognize behaviors that would be considered hazing by campus professionals or staff at the Fraternity,” says Novak.

“But, when the context of the behavior is provided students often see it as hazing—they struggle when looking at specific activities. For example, when you ask if sleep deprivation could bring physical harm, we have seen a large number of students agree that this would be hazing, but when asking about a specific activity that might cause sleep deprivation they struggle. I believe,” says Novak, “that this is due in part to focus over the years on extreme outcomes, such as the tragedy of death, and we are just getting to a place where we are talking more about the other negative outcomes of hazing.”



KIM NOVAK

CEO of NovakTalks

Where did hazing start?

Historically, we assumed that hazing started with the collegiate experience. While it did in this country, hazing started way back.

From my research, it identifies in a nautical sense. Back in the 1500s sailing crews would be made up of new people and some who had done it before. The veterans would create unnecessary experiences to help people earn their place.

On college campuses, though, hazing started with first year students as part of orienting them to the campus. Colleges figured out that it wasn’t creating a good experience and started recognizing hazing.

From the fraternal side, Sigma Nu was actually founded because others hazed. Their thought was, “We just came back from Civil War, we shouldn’t have to endure more hardship for brotherhood.”

Who can be hazed?

Anyone in a team, chapter or organization.

How prolific is hazing on college campuses today?

I think the question is, has it dropped or are we just not hearing about it?

Hazing continues to be less prolific than in the 80s because of stronger enforcement of institution policy. But, I don’t believe it’s more prolific than the 90s. With technology, like GroupMe and posting incidents online, it’s more identifiable to make us more aware.

How has the hazing conversation changed in recent years?

Back in the mid-90s, I was a conduct officer adjudicating hazing cases. I adjudicated five pretty bad hazing cases that would have been in the media now, and I met with 72 individual students through those cases.

I just thought, I don’t think this is doing anything. Why are we waiting until after it all happens until we do something? I got tired of waiting—so I brought the conversation.

When looking at hazing as a public health issue, you’re in the preventative realm. We’re doing it with all kinds of behaviors like drugs and alcohol, why not hazing? I think you have to use discipline, but it’s not going to make a difference if you wait. It’s all about education from the start.

Is hazing a crime? Does my state have laws?

Yes, in 44 states. Hazing isn’t criminal in many states, just civil. Some states are

moving to stricter laws, like Louisiana and Pennsylvania. But, when legislators started hazing laws I think they were looking at groups of college kids and thought, “well, if someone dies, that’s homicide—not hazing.”

“Why are we waiting until after it all happens until we do something?”

Talk to us about what’s going on at the federal government level with hazing prevention:

There is federal legislation pending to make hazing one of the reportable crimes in the national campus crime reports. Legislators are saying, we’re done and we need to raise the bar.

Note: FarmHouse International has supported this piece of legislation.

What research has been done about hazing?

The majority didn’t happen until the last ten years. The National Study of Student Hazing was the first foundational look at the student impact of hazing.

What’s our best chance to stop it?

I believe to continue to research and understand it. The more we know and understand it, the more we will understand how we can create an alternative.

The Landscape

JEFF HILBRENNER (MISSOURI 97)

Chapter Advisor, University of Missouri Chapter



What happened with the Missouri Chapter?

During an investigation by the University of Missouri and FarmHouse, we learned that our chapter had allowed a group of men to haze new members. The extent of the hazing was serious and we decided that returning to the kind of culture we wanted at FarmHouse would require closing the chapter and working with Mizzou and FarmHouse International (FHHQ) on a planned return.

How did the chapter get to this point?

Despite involved and actively engaged alumni, members of the chapter were hazing new members behind their backs and the chapter refused to hold members to our high standards.

I am still convinced the vast majority of our recent chapter members were really good young men; however, they allowed a culture to creep into the chapter that allowed alcohol and hazing to be a part of its operations.

How did the Association and FHHQ make the decision to close the chapter?

Honestly, after our alumni board was presented the results of the investigation it was a unanimous decision, but by no means was it easy. Two members of our board had sons in the chapter and the president of our board had a younger brother in our chapter. The hazing and the cover up by some chapter members during the investigation created a trust

void and we just knew we needed a fresh start and a chance to rebuild.

What has the reaction been from the chapter alumni? Other alumni?

Our Missouri alumni are disappointed; however, nearly all alumni we have communicated with are very optimistic about our future and appreciate the FHHQ & Missouri FarmHouse Association enforcing its values and standards.

What do you see as the future of the Missouri Chapter?

A focus on our roots and core values. We will not have a chapter at Mizzou for four semesters and have a planned return for fall 2020. With the help of alumni and the International Fraternity, we plan to grow quickly into a chapter full of men of high character.

What do you hope other alumni learn from this closure?

The best fraternity chapters have strong alumni support and active alumni volunteers. Successful chapters today require more guidance, advising, encouragement and mentoring than many of us experienced as undergraduates.

What do you hope other chapter-level volunteers learn from this closure?

Zero tolerance. Clearly define reasonable expectations and consequences for when they are not met. When members fail to meet a reasonable expectation, follow through with the defined consequence.

“Successful chapters today require more GUIDANCE, ADVISING, ENCOURAGEMENT and MENTORING than many of us experienced as undergraduates.”





The Landscape

DAN WRONA

CEO and Project Leader, Rise Partnerships

Whose responsibility is it to address hazing?

Hazing is a complex problem. Whether intentionally, unintentionally, knowingly, or unknowingly, each person connected to the situation plays a role in influencing whether hazing is likely to take place, and therefore they all have a responsibility to address it. This includes policy-makers, parents, alumni, volunteer advisors, fraternity staff, university staff, law enforcement, student leaders, interfraternity council leaders and many more.

What signs should someone look for to determine whether hazing might be taking place?

Problems not violations. Don't just look for things that you believe violate a policy. Look for anything that feels like it might be problematic for any reason. This can include things some people believe are effective but are truly counterproductive, situations that result in unethical treatment, or activities that are irrelevant to the organization. Some of these situations may not violate hazing policy, but they are likely to create problems for the organization, so they are worth addressing either way.

Context Matters. Because hazing involves interpersonal dynamics, it is not enough to look at a behavior alone to identify hazing. Look deeper at the context of the social situation to determine whether the situation might involve hazing. If you see a pattern of double standards, manipulation, withheld information, limited permissions, isolation of new members from others, control over behavior, or restriction of free will, there is a problem.

Example: A new member brings an initiated member coffee. This could be a benign situation where a friend is doing something nice, or it could be part of a larger pattern of errands and chores with extreme consequences. Look beyond the behavior itself to look for social influences that might be inappropriate.

Is hazing only a concern between initiated members and new members?

No. Hazing situations can appear wherever there is a difference or change in status or role. Hazing victims have included members who pin (lavaliers) their significant other, newly elected leaders, seniors preparing to graduate, and many other situations. Look for any circumstances where members are being mistreated based on their role in the group.

How can an alumnus play a role in preventing hazing?

Everyone—alumni, advisors and other volunteers—have influence over the culture of a chapter. Whether you know it, like it, or not, how you interact with students can make hazing more likely or less likely. There are three specific things alumni can do.

First, be careful how you share your stories. Talking about “how bad it used to be back in the day” can normalize hazing and give students an excuse to tolerate what is taking place now. Instead, show support for the progress that has taken place, emphasize how the fraternity is better today because of these changes, why it was wrong in the past, and explain what happened was not acceptable then and is no longer tolerated now.

Second, those who have direct, regular contact with students through advising or another volunteer role should be particularly wary of the illusion of omniscience. Although alumni, advisors, or authority figures may not be aware of hazing or other problems, undergraduates often assume they are all-knowing and can interpret this tacit approval for the problems taking place. It is the responsibility of alumni, advisors or authority figures to ask lots of questions in order to learn and to illustrate that they do not know everything taking place in the group. Many hazing situations were occurring long before they were detected because undergraduates assumed alumni were aware and because alumni did not dig in to learn what was taking place.

Finally, weigh in with your opinion. If you support a hazing-free new member experience, reach out to share your thoughts, support and ideas with

undergraduate leaders. They often vaguely reference alumni and tradition as reasons for continuing problematic new member practices, even if they do not know where you stand. Giving them accurate information about alumni attitudes can provide the moral support they need for making improvements.

What role can a chapter-level volunteer play in hazing prevention?

Clarify social norms. Most people believe most hazing situations are unacceptable, but they may not speak up for fear of being alone or unpopular in their opinion. Whenever there is a debate, ignore the few people who are loudly advocating their view, and redirect attention to the people who are not speaking up. This silent majority likely supports a positive new member experience, but they need your help bringing their voice into the conversation. This presents a more accurate view of the chapter's opinions rather than letting a few extreme attitudes take the chapter off course.

Coach the boundaries. Chapter-level advisors and other volunteers should neither overlook issues nor dictate what the chapter should do. Instead, they should facilitate informed decision-making. Guide leaders through the critical-thinking process to help them make better decisions. Ask questions about how their practices line up with laws, policies, expectations and social implications. If they are stepping outside the boundaries, ask them to consider different options, to evaluate the consequences of each option and to make changes that bring them in line with expectations. This coaching process provides some mental scaffolding to students who may still be learning how to problem-solve and who need help interpreting policies and laws.

What are the different entry points into a conversation with a student about hazing?

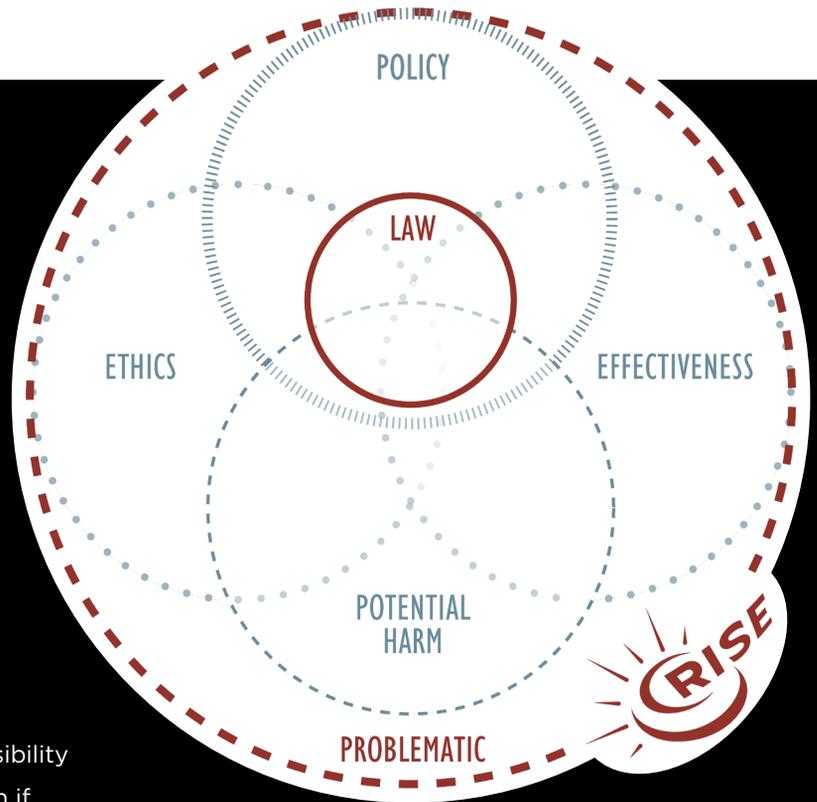
Listen for attitudes. Do not wait for an impending incident to start discussions about hazing. It is more difficult and sometimes too late to address the problem. Listen for signals that reflect attitudes about hazing, such

WHERE'S THE LINE?

THE SET OF SITUATIONS DEFINED AS HAZING ARE CODIFIED IN LAWS, which are different in each state. Hazing also includes a broader set of situations defined by university and organization POLICIES.

Organization leaders are also responsible for addressing a variety of other potentially PROBLEMATIC situations not explicitly listed in policy or law. These situations may be UNETHICAL, INEFFECTIVE, POTENTIALLY HARMFUL to those involved, or in conflict with community principles.

Campus and organization officials have a responsibility to guide leaders in resolving these concerns, even if they do not constitute a violation of law or policy.



Created by RISE Partnerships for student affairs professionals including insights from RISE, NovakTalks, faculty members of HazingPrevention.Org's Novak Institute for Hazing Prevention, and others. Sharing is permissible with attribution. Copyright © 2015 RISE Partnerships, LLC.

as considering new members are “less-than,” expecting new members to do the work, thinking of the new member process as a test or an over-emphasis on discipline, conformity or obedience.

Ask about specific practices. Talk to student leaders about the goals, intent, format and detailed setup of each experience in the new member process. Ask about each element that might make the activity problematic: are there ways it might be considered ineffective, immoral, irrelevant or criminal? Is there anything that would raise a red flag? Each of these questions creates an entry point to proactively examine and redirect attitudes and practices that might turn into hazing situations.

What are someone's responsibilities if they think hazing might be taking place?

Know the law and policy. Some institution/organization policies and some state laws place responsibility on

bystanders to report hazing. If this true for you, failing to report could make you responsible for violating the policy or law.

Aside from legal and policy responsibilities, failing to act might make someone complicit in creating the hazing situation. Because hazing is shaped by interactions in the group, failing to take action to redirect a potential hazing incident means they helped make it possible.

Be proactive. Leading up to a situation, members and alumni can ask questions. If there is a recurring annual activity you think should stop, talk with others in the organization or advisors to see what they think. Based on our research, almost everyone will agree with you and will become an ally in redirecting the situation.

Take care of your friends. Due to the interpersonal dynamics of hazing situations, we should not place all the onus of stopping hazing on new members who are being hazed.

Their position puts them at a

disadvantage in addressing the situation, and this attitude is the equivalent of victim-blaming. Instead, put the onus on friends, parents, peers, significant others, other members and other chapter leaders to respond.

Look out for those who are being mistreated and take steps as a friend to make sure they are treated appropriately.

Do you think hazing can be eliminated?

Hazing has no place in the organization because it violates our basic principles and it violates the trust new members put in us. We should therefore do everything we can to prevent it. It is unrealistic to expect that hazing situations will never arise, but that does not mean efforts to prevent them are futile. If fewer members are mistreated when joining the organization, we will have made a difference in their experience and for the fraternity. We can and should work to prevent hazing, even if we cannot make it perfect. *

Join us!

JULY 25-28 | DOWNTOWN MARRIOTT KANSAS CITY

Register at farmhouse.org/conference/conclave

Registration closes July 10

inside conclave

International Executive Board Nominations

IN ACCORDANCE WITH FARMHOUSE BYLAWS, the International President named five alumni to the Nominations and Elections Committee in October 2017. Those five men, Patrick Robinson (Kentucky 98), Shawn Eagleburger (Iowa State 02), Ryan McConnaughey (Wyoming 06), Jeff Davis (South Dakota State 78) and Tim Hadachek (Kansas State 07), worked over a period of eight months to solicit, cultivate, interview and recommend a

slate of individuals for consideration by Conclave for appointment as directors to FarmHouse Fraternity International Executive Board (IEB).

The committee worked through a list of nearly 60 names of men who either expressed interest or were nominated by a peer and then interviewed more than half of those nominated. The committee specifically looked for alumni

with significant executive-level work experience, who had served on non-profit boards, who had led change management initiatives and had a strong FarmHouse experience at the chapter and/or alumnus level. The Nominations and Elections Committee believe this group of men, along with those who will continue to serve on the IEB, are poised to ensure that progress shall mark every step for FarmHouse over the next biennium.



RETIRING

WE CELEBRATE, FROM LEFT, Patrick Robinson (Kentucky 98) and Ryan Feist (South Dakota State 00) as they complete their service on the IEB at Conclave.



RETURNING

WE WELCOME BACK, FROM TOP, John Ortner (Colorado State 04), Judson Ricks (Troy 07) and Eric Steiner (Purdue 98), will continue to serve the second half of their four-year term as members of the IEB.

RE-NOMINATED

In accordance with FarmHouse bylaws, a director may serve on the IEB for two consecutive four-year terms.



Gabriel Eckert (Kansas State 95) is CEO of the Building Owners and Managers Association of Georgia, an American Society of Association Executives Fellow and Certified Association Executive. He is also a nonprofit strategic planning facilitator, educational speaker and best-selling author. He is currently FarmHouse International President and was recipient of the Doane Award as an undergraduate member of the Kansas State Chapter. He is slated to return for a four-year term.



John Torres (Ohio State 02) resides in Columbus, Ohio, where he is the director of government and industry affairs for Ohio Corn & Wheat. As an undergraduate, he was chapter president and IFC secretary. He also served the Ohio State Association as president and oversaw the merger between Alpha Tau Zeta and FarmHouse in 2010. He is slated to serve the last two years of a four-year term vacated earlier this year.

NEW NOMINEES

The following FarmHouse men are first-time nominees for a four-year term to the IEB.



Eric Bymaster (Purdue 90) serves as associate vice chancellor for finance at Vanderbilt University. Eric's responsibilities include financial planning and analysis, developing the annual budget, managing the University's capital plan and overseeing the finances of their 10 academic schools.

Prior to Vanderbilt, Eric spent 15 years at Emory University. His most recent position was associate vice president for finance and operations in the division of campus life.

Before Emory, Eric spent seven years at Purdue University in a variety of roles, including managing real estate and serving as a business and contracting officer in the Schools of Engineering and Agriculture.

Outside of work, Eric enjoys running and real estate investing.

Eric earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from Purdue University.



John Foltz (Ohio State 79) is chair of the department of animal sciences at The Ohio State University. Previously at the University of Idaho, he served as associate dean and dean of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences.

Professor Foltz received his bachelor's and master's degrees in agricultural economics from Ohio State University.

Foltz worked for six years as a district manager for Ralston Purina in Ohio and Pennsylvania marketing livestock feed and animal health products.

Subsequently, he received his Ph.D. in agricultural economics from Purdue University and was at the University of Idaho for 26 years. As an undergraduate at Ohio State, he was a member of Alpha Zeta Fraternity, now FarmHouse Fraternity at Ohio State.



Greg Ibach (Nebraska 81) was nominated by President Donald Trump and confirmed by the Senate in 2017 to serve as the current undersecretary for marketing and regulatory programs at the USDA.

Previous to his appointment, he was the Nebraska director of agriculture for over 12 years.

Greg served on the Nebraska FH Chapter Association Board and as a co-chair of the Nebraska housing campaign. He has been a strong supporter of youth and young adult career development throughout his personal and professional life.

Greg and his wife, Teresa, have three children and continue to be involved with their farm and ranch in Sumner, Neb. Their two sons, Evan (Nebraska 11) and Alec (Nebraska 11) are also FarmHouse members. Their daughter Emily, graduated from Nebraska and is a member of Alpha Phi.

Greg strongly believes his commitment to FarmHouse was not just four years, but for life. *

2018 Master Builders of Men to be celebrated

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 one of its alumni members. Neither position, wealth, nor occupation enter into consideration for the award, but simply what he has done to help others. At the 50th Conclave, five FarmHouse brothers will be recognized as the 2018 recipients of the award.



Jack Annan

Colorado State 53

Jack Annan and his wife, Florence, reside in Colorado and have two grown children, Bill (Colorado State 79) and Sherry.

Following his service in the military, Annan utilized his degree in vocational agriculture by starting the agriculture program at Prairie Junior-Senior High in New Raymer, Colo., while teaching science. He then moved schools to teach agriculture before returning to Colorado State to earn his master's degree in education, which led him to join the agriculture faculty at Northeastern Junior College (NJC).

For more than 50 years, Annan has become an institution at NJC as an instructor, admissions counselor, recruiter and currently, executive director of the NJC Alumni Association.

Annan's career in agriculture expanded into industry organizations, such as serving as the state coordinator, turned executive secretary, for Project 21—now known as the Colorado Young Farmers Educational Association Program.

He serves as a committed member of community organizations, has been awarded multiple citizenship, teaching and agriculture accolades, and was inducted into several Halls of Fame including: Colorado Vocational Association, Colorado Agriculture, NJC Agriculture and CSU Agriculture.



Louis J. Boyd

Kentucky 53

Louis Boyd and his wife, Becky, reside in Watkinsville, Ga. As a graduate of University of Kentucky and finishing his education by obtaining a Ph.D. in reproductive physiology from University of Illinois, Louis Boyd accepted a faculty role at the University of Tennessee as a dairy science professor.

He was instrumental in the founding of Tennessee's FarmHouse chapter before accepting a new role at Michigan State University.

After a year of sabbatical research in England, Boyd began his 42-year career at University of Georgia as the chair of the division of animal science, including six departments at three locations. During his tenure, Boyd, among many achievements, created the Eterna Fund, the Ag Alumni Association's endowment that has provided more than \$160,000 in scholarships, and established a swine production research program that attracted the USDA.

As a leader in the industry—even co-authoring the first Hoard's Dairyman book—Boyd has received many awards and accolades. He was named a fellow of American Dairy Science Association (ADSA) and American Society for Animal Science (ASAS), served on several boards of directors including Coble Dairies, the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST), ADSA and ASAS and its Foundation. He also contributed his expertise in several capacities such as president of CAST, and the editorial board of the Professional Animal Scientist.

Boyd was one of the first awardees in the Hall of Distinguished Alumni of the College of Agriculture at the University of Kentucky and he has been inducted into the Georgia Agricultural Hall of Fame.



Sen. Cory Gardner

Colorado State 95

Senator Gardner lives in his hometown of Yuma, Colo., with his wife, Jamie, and their three children: Alyson, Thatcher and Caitlyn.

As the first FarmHouse initiate to be elected as a United States Senator, Gardner began his career in policy after receiving his law degree from Colorado State.

After working at his family's business and the National Corn Growers Association, Sen. Gardner was the legislative assistant for U.S. Senator Wayne Allard and quickly advanced to serve as his legislative director.

In 2005, Sen. Gardner entered the Colorado House of Representatives as minority whip and became known for his expertise in natural resources and agriculture. He was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 2010 and then to the Senate in 2015, where serves as a member of the Senate Energy and Natural Resource Committee and chair of the Energy Subcommittee, among others.

Throughout his career, Sen. Gardner has kept his affiliation with the Fraternity close, speaking at the FarmHouse Stock Show Breakfast and hosting undergraduate members as interns in his U.S. Senate office.



Tom Kopacek

Minnesota 70

Tom Kopacek and his wife, Sally, live outside Minnesota's Twin Cities and have two children and three grandchildren.

After graduating with his degree in agricultural business administration, he began his career with CENEX in credit and financial services. Finishing his tenure as a director in 1986, Kopacek has since held several executive roles at Republic Acceptance Corporation, US Bank and M&I Bank. He currently serves as vice president and relationship manager at BMO Harris Bank.

Throughout his career, Kopacek has held leadership positions with several organizations including: the North Central Petroleum Credit Association, Twin Cities Agribusiness Credit and Finance Association and Best Prep, an organization that helps middle and high school students gain business skills and improve financial literacy.

In 1973, Kopacek received the Doane Award as a graduating senior from his chapter. His dedication to FarmHouse continued immediately after graduation, serving on the Minnesota FH Association board of directors as secretary and treasurer for nine years and a two-year term as president. He continued his service on the Fraternity's National Executive Board for eight years, four of which he was president. He continues to remain involved as co-chair of the Foundation's Chapter House Loan Program.



S. Warren Weibert

Kansas State 66

Warren Weibert and his wife, Carol, live in Manhattan, Kan., and have two grown children, Chris (Kansas State 95) and Julie.

Growing up on his family's farm, raising cattle became his passion. After graduating with a bachelor's degree in animal sciences and industry and working for six years in management for Southwestern Bell, Weibert returned to his roots and to manage a feed yard for his father-in-law in Oberlin, Kan., in 1977. Eventually he purchased the feed yard from his father-in-law, and successfully built the business to 40,000 head of cattle.

Throughout his career, Weibert pioneered the integration of electronic cattle identification with value-based marketing. He entered into a marketing alliance with Cargill Meat Solutions until his retirement and sale of the company in 2014. As a leader in the industry, Weibert served on the boards of several associations, including president of the Kansas Livestock Association, president of CattleFax, and regional vice president of the National Cattlemen's Association, and still remains active today.

In 2006, he was recognized by Kansas State University's (KSU) College of Agriculture as an Alumni Fellow. Because of his dedication to his alma mater, he has stayed involved through a variety of organizations and currently serves as a trustee of the KSU Foundation. He also is vice president of the Kansas 4-H Foundation. Since spring 2016, he has served as a chapter advisor for the Kansas State FH Chapter. Weibert is currently serving on the Kansas State FarmHouse Building Campaign.*

2017 & 2018 Philanthropy Laureates to be honored



Jim Herbert
Tennessee 61

Jim Tobin
Iowa State 76

Two alumni will be honored with the FarmHouse Foundation's Philanthropy Laureate Award, its most prestigious honor. James L. Herbert (Tennessee 61), the 2017 Philanthropy Laureate and James P. Tobin (Iowa State 76), the 2018 Laureate, will be recognized at Conclave.

Established in 1999, the recipient(s) must have exhibited great philanthropic intent throughout his/her life, be a member of the Fraternity or have some connection with a FarmHouse brother, spouse, parent, relative, etc. Often the recipient is an individual who has made financial and service contributions of significant dimension to the Foundation, individual FarmHouse chapters and/or society.

Recipients may be chosen annually, but are recognized at the Biennial Conclave. Since its inception, 20 men have been named a Philanthropy Laureate.

"Jim Herbert and Jim Tobin are exemplary leaders and the essence of the individuals we seek to recognize through this award," says Allison Rickels, CEO of the FarmHouse Foundation.

"They are exceptionally generous with their time, talent and treasure. Both 2016 Master Builder recipients, they both served as Foundation Trustees together and were back to back Chairmen, leading *Live. Learn. Lead.—The Campaign for FarmHouse*, which raised over \$23.6 million. During this time, they pushed the Foundation to achieve record fundraising years and exponential growth, always challenging the Board and Staff to think bigger, be more innovative and stretch our goals. At the same time, they always provided the reassurance, confidence and vision we could do it."

Rickels continues, "They are true champions of FarmHouse, and strongly believe in what the Fraternity experience offers for our members. During their board service, they developed a friendship and respect for each other, so much so, today Jim Tobin serves on the Board of Directors for Jim Herbert's company, Neogen. They both say without these valuable, rewarding and life-long FH connections and opportunities, their lives would be much

different today. They each have a strong desire to help provide our undergraduate members with similar rich experiences like they've had. They are most deserving of this honor and we are grateful for their significant, continued investments."

James L. Herbert (Tennessee 61) served as a Foundation Trustee for six years (08-14), including two as Chair-Elect and two as Chair, and continues as a Trustee Emeritus. Jim was honored as a Master Builder in 2016. In 2017, he received the Outstanding Philanthropist Award by the North-American Interfraternity Conference Foundation (NICF).

Jim and his wife, Judi, were one of four donors to give one million dollars during the *Live. Learn. Lead. Campaign*. From being one of the first to establish an endowment, in support of volunteers, to kick-off the silent phase to making a transformational gift on the Campaign's last day, Jim was a part of it every step of the way. Jim has been a significant donor, sponsor and mentor for all 12 years of the Power of 7 Seminar. He and Judi are members of the Cornerstone Society, for accumulative giving of \$500,000 and above.

Professionally, Jim was CEO of Neogen Corporation from its inception in 1982 until recently when he assumed the role of Executive Chairman of the Board. Neogen is a publicly held \$4 billion company focused on the development, manufacturing and marketing of products for food and animal safety. Headquartered in Lansing, Mich., Neogen markets its products to over 114 countries and has operations in Scotland, Brazil, Mexico, China, India and Australia.

Jim received his bachelor's degree from the University of Tennessee, and completed advanced studies at Emory University and Harvard. He has received honorary Ph.D. degrees from Michigan State University, the University of Tennessee and Queen's University Belfast, Ireland.

He also owns Bar-H Ranches, a commercial beef cattle producer in Texas. Jim serves on the board of directors of the

University of Tennessee Foundation. He and Judi reside in Lansing, Mich., and have a son, daughter and three grandchildren.

James P. Tobin (Iowa State 76) served as a Foundation Trustee for eight years (08-16), including as Chair and Chair-Elect. He led *Live. Learn. Lead.—The Campaign for FarmHouse* as Foundation Chair during its public phase. He was named a Master Builder in 2016.

As a Trustee Emeritus, he co-chairs the Chapter Housing Loan Program, volunteers with the Board and assists with donor visits. He has been a speaker at every FH Emerging Talent Retreat, since its inception in May 2009, and has been a sponsor of the Power of 7 Seminar for 10 years. He and his wife, Gina, are members of the Order of the Crest, for accumulative giving of \$250,000 to \$499,999.

Professionally, Jim retired from Monsanto in December 2014, after over 31 years with the company. He continues to serve as chair of Monsanto's Grower Advisory Council. He joined Monsanto's agricultural unit in 1983. His most recent work involved leadership of the industry affairs group and with the grain industry.

Jim earned his bachelor's degree from Iowa State University and an MBA from Harvard University.

He is a member of the Farm Foundation Roundtable, serves on the board of Neogen and on the board of governors for the Iowa State University Foundation.

He served on the National 4-H Council and the Missouri 4-H Foundation, and is past chair of the American Seed Trade Association.

Jim and Gina live in St. Louis, Mo., and have three children. One son, Zach (Iowa State 08), is an alumnus of the Iowa State chapter.

In addition, Jim's father, Kelly (Iowa State 82), and brothers, Bernie (Iowa State 81), Terry (Iowa State 76) and Kevin (Iowa State 79) are members and, at the 100th Anniversary Celebration, their mother, Irene was recognized with the "Friend of FarmHouse" Award. *

THE STARS OF
★ ★ ★
FARMHOUSE

**Whether you are attending Conclave
or not, you can join the celebration!**



More than 30,000 men have been initiated into the Fraternity.

They are the Stars of FarmHouse. Each member's involvement has inspired others, built men and made a difference in our world. These 30,000 stars are lighting the way for the next generation. They are advisors, association leaders, chapter officers, board members, donors, mentors and volunteers—who spend their time, resources and efforts to advance FarmHouse.

For \$10 each, you can give a Star of FarmHouse in honor, celebration or memory of your FarmHouse brothers.

His star will shine on our Stars of FarmHouse Wall

during Conclave. Your gift will invest in the next generation of FarmHouse stars by supporting the Foundation's Excellence Fund (*previously known as the Annual Fund*).

ONLINE

1. <http://bit.ly/FHSTARS>
2. Choose Annual Fund
3. Fill in form
4. In the gift designation/notes box, indicate Stars of FarmHouse and include the names of those you are honoring
5. Click the button and complete your gift via PayPal

MAIL

1. Mail your check, made payable to the FarmHouse Foundation to 7306 NW Tiffany Springs Pkwy, Suite 310, Kansas City, MO 64153
2. Write "Stars of FarmHouse" in memo line
3. Include a list of those you are honoring with your check



**HELP FILL THE
AUCTION BLOCK!**

Donate unique items, exclusive experiences and FarmHouse memorabilia for the Conclave Auction, benefiting the new FarmHouse Excellence Fund in support of the Fraternity's programs like Conclave.

For more information contact thomas@farmhouse.org or 816.891.9445.



Jerry Stritzke (Oklahoma State 80)

PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF REI

Leadership Spotlight

“Leadership is doing things the right way and being more open minded about what the right answer is.”

What prior career opportunities helped you attain your current role?

It's been a bizarre journey from an agriculture economics degree at Oklahoma State to a law degree to this. After being a partner at a successful law firm, I decided it wasn't what I wanted to do with my life. I knew a guy at church who did consulting, and business captured my imagination. I did that for six years and it served as my real-life MBA experience. The last client I worked with ran one of the biggest retail empires, MAST Industries. I led the company and visited 50 countries in five years—it was a game changer.

How did that experience prepare you to be a successful CEO?

During my time at MAST, I was exposed to a very diverse lens into the world. It broadened my perspective pretty dramatically. That whole time, I was in learning mode to be an effective CEO and what it means to lead a group of people. While at that same company (MAST), I was moved into a co-leadership role with Victoria's Secret for two years. Then, I moved to New York for six years as CEO of Coach.

What are some of the challenges of running an outdoor company in the digital age?

The impact of social media and the mobile device we all carry around in our pocket is probably one of the most disruptive things that's ever happened. But, it doesn't matter if it's easy or hard, it just is. If we do our job well, digital has to be the way you do community, brand and relationships. Every single purchase decision is enabled by a mobile device. Social media is where most things in society take place today. If you're going to be relevant, you have to be on social media. I believe we do that in an effective and compelling way.

What was the catalyst behind REI's decision to close on Black Friday?

Indirectly, REI is a co-op. It's a large community of people and is organized around a shared passion of a life lived outside. Black Friday is a commercialized day and our passion isn't consumerism, it's for living outside. Closing the day after Thanksgiving was an opportunity to live our values—spend time with family and encourage others to do the same. A powerful message was born: #OptOutside.

With more than 15 years of retail experience, was the idea of closing on such a busy day unheard of?

It seemed crazy! It was either going to be the stupidest thing ever or had the potential to be something special. The night before we announced it, I was in New York and we had shared the idea with press outlets without much traction. I went to bed thinking it would be just another day and then I got a call at 5 a.m. from a TV station asking me to come in right then. From there, it took off. We garnered seven billion impressions that year and it's actually grown. Every year we have more people participate on social media. We learned when you live your values and take a stand, it resonates. We believe, and it's been born out, that our 17 million members are on board.

What do you enjoy most about your career and professional work?

I went to an outdoor show when I first joined REI six years ago. It was a Tuesday and I was testing our next year's product at the top of a ski slope. I sent a photo of the top of the mountain to some buddies with “rough day at the office.” I consider myself lucky, but am always striving for excellence.

Did you have a passion for the outdoors prior to joining the REI team?

I grew up in Oklahoma, so we would retreat out of the Oklahoma heat to Colorado. I had a love affair with Colorado and that translated to everything outdoors. As a professional, the outdoors became a place I could go to be grounded. I love rock climbing—I've climbed probably 20 fourteeners in Colorado—fly fishing, river rafting, kayaking, skiing and biking. I continue to add to the list.

What about the FarmHouse experience spoke to you, prompting you to be interested in joining or accepting an invitation to join the brotherhood?

I came into college a bit skeptical about the fraternity and sorority collection of life. I began to see the quality of FarmHouse men—the amazing academic record, a good set of values. If the opportunity presented itself, I'd be honored to join and I did my sophomore year serving as the president of my pledge class.

What did you learn from those experiences or your FH chapter member experience that had “staying power” with you in your career or personal pursuits since then?

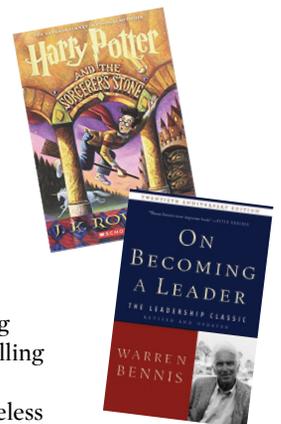
I would have described my FarmHouse experience as positive peer pressure. Then I realized that if I took that forward today, I'd call that word “culture.” FarmHouse focuses on excellence, value space and productive accountability to one another. As a business leader, I have the opportunity to set and influence culture.

What do you know now as a professional or personally that you wish you'd known at a younger age?

I learned along the way, it's less about arriving at a right answer and it's more about doing things the right way. Leadership is doing things the right way and being more open minded about what the right answer is.

What are two or three books that were impactful to you you would recommend others read?

A little non-traditional: *Harry Potter*. I read them every year. I'm a big fan of great storytelling and feeding your imagination. A timeless read for business, though, is *On Becoming a Leader* by Warren Bennis. ★





S. FRASER

ILLINOIS
CONSERVATION
POLICE
Since 1885
DEPT.
NATURAL RESOURCES

A COP WITH A DIFFERENT BEAT

For a police officer, every beat is unique.

WRITTEN BY THOMAS MARTEN (SOUTHERN ILLINOIS 11)

SOME OFFICERS patrol rural highways while others have urban neighborhoods and the sprawl of the suburbs. For some, like Stuart Fraser (Southern Illinois 11), their call of duty includes not just farmland and a city, but also trees, prairies and parks.

Fraser is an Illinois Conservation Police Officer (CPO) covering Winnebago County, Ill., including Illinois' second largest city, Rockford, one of the state's largest state parks, Rock Cut, as well as numerous wooded areas, farms, lakes and rivers. For CPO Fraser, his interest in law enforcement and conservation began early.

"It started out in grade school on a field trip to a state park," says Fraser. "There was a CPO as a part of our visit and he spoke about what he did—the state laws, hunting and fishing, and he had his equipment on display. I always had an interest in law enforcement because my dad was a state trooper and after the talk with the CPO I saw it was just like being a state trooper but more diversified."

Forward thinking is certainly an attribute for CPO Fraser. When he was studying for his bachelor's degree at Southern Illinois University (SIU), he got involved with a new group starting on campus—FarmHouse.

A Cop with a Different Beat



CPO Fraser issues a citation to a motorist for excessive speeding. Speeding in state parks is particularly concerning because of the mission to both conserve wildlife that are vulnerable to cars but also in its mission to provide recreation for the general public that may not be as aware of cars in the park. Because he has full police powers, Stuart is able to patrol not only in natural areas but also throughout the state's roadways.



From a high vantage point along the Rock River in downtown Rockford, Ill., Fraser takes notes on those fishing before conducting checks for valid licenses.

CONT. FROM PAGE 19

“I was approached by Adam Herwig (Southern Illinois 11) and Thomas Marten (Southern Illinois 11) about starting a FarmHouse chapter at SIU,” he remembers. “I liked the values and what the Fraternity stood for. My little brother, Mason Fraser (Southern Illinois 11), had a lot to do with it—He was going to be a freshman. I thought that if I helped get FarmHouse established, it would be a legacy for him and for others.”

Stuart's wife, Nikki, says she has seen an impact of his continued FarmHouse involvement.

“He has grown in his leadership roles and is good at meeting people. I attribute that to FarmHouse,” says Nikki. “He found a group of men who built each other up and not down. I think that makes him a better husband and dad.”

Those social skills also benefit Fraser in his police work. With growing scrutiny on police, there too grows an interest in community policing—a concept that game wardens and conservation police officers have been putting into practice for decades.

“Being assigned to one county allows us to get to know the people we work with. Citizens have our phone numbers and it helps us to ensure that not every contact someone has with a CPO will result in a citation. With us, we're checking licenses, teaching hunter safety courses, patrolling trails and interacting with the public face-to-face. Many people are more apt to talk to you knowing that contact might not result in a ticket.”

For Fraser and his colleagues, community policing and their mission to be vigilant guardians of the state's natural resources, means their vehicles and equipment are a little different from your typical police officer. Depending on the season and the type of patrol, you can find him in his pickup truck, boat, ATV, snowmobile, bicycle or even cooperating with another agency using helicopters and airplanes.

As you would expect, the job entails a great deal of training and ongoing development. Fraser has full police powers in the same way a state trooper does, but with the addition of specializing in law enforcement dealing with conservation

A Cop with a Different Beat



“Being assigned to one county allows us to get to know the people we work with . . . It helps us to ensure that not every contact someone has with a CPO will result in a citation.”



Stuart's patrols cover all sorts of terrain and vegetation. Many areas are only accessible by foot or boat.

In addition to their state mandate to serve and protect those visiting natural areas, the Illinois Conservation Police have a third principle, to educate. Stuart awarded two young hunters for their first successful turkey hunt.

and preservation of natural resources.

Living the FarmHouse motto, “Builder of Men,” Fraser volunteers as a training officer, a background investigator, a firearms instructor and teaches classes at the Academy about sovereign citizens and domestic terrorism. In doing so, he helps other officers grow in their careers the same way others have helped him.

Reflecting on the letters of FarmHouse, the “H” rings loudly for CPO Fraser.

“Honesty is a principle you have to follow,” he says. “People get in trouble and they want to fib; a little white lie here or there and that is unacceptable in law enforcement. The values of

FarmHouse are to be lived every day.”

In her own honesty, Mrs. Fraser shared how she was unfamiliar with both conservation law and FarmHouse.

“I didn’t even know this was a job until I met Stuart,” she says. “It opened up a whole new world to me with laws and licensures. And I never thought I’d know so much about ducks!”

As for FarmHouse, her view of fraternity and sorority life quickly shifted away from stereotypes.

“I was pretty shocked the first time I went to a FarmHouse event with his brother, Mason. I was surprised how nice and friendly everyone was. It was clean,

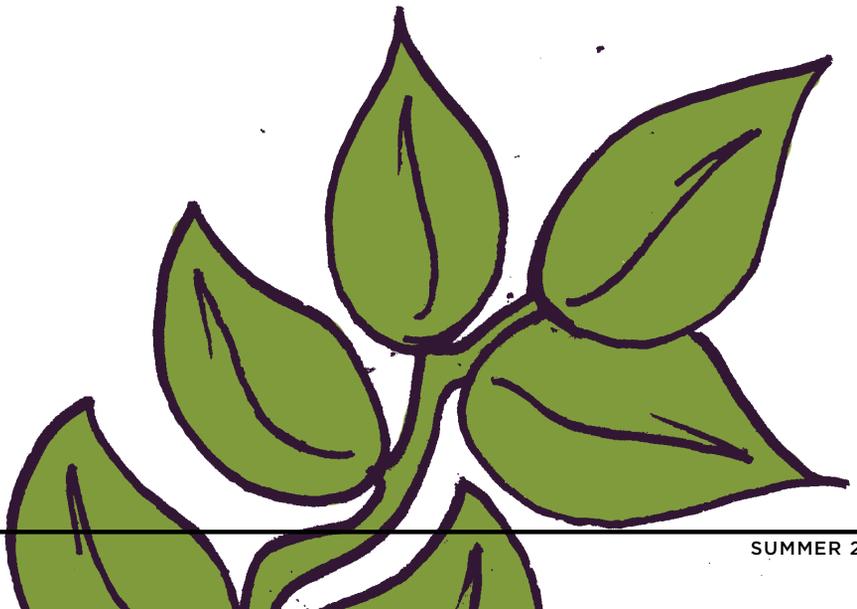
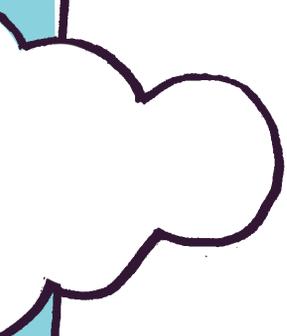
safe and welcoming and I’ve continued to see that over the past several years.”

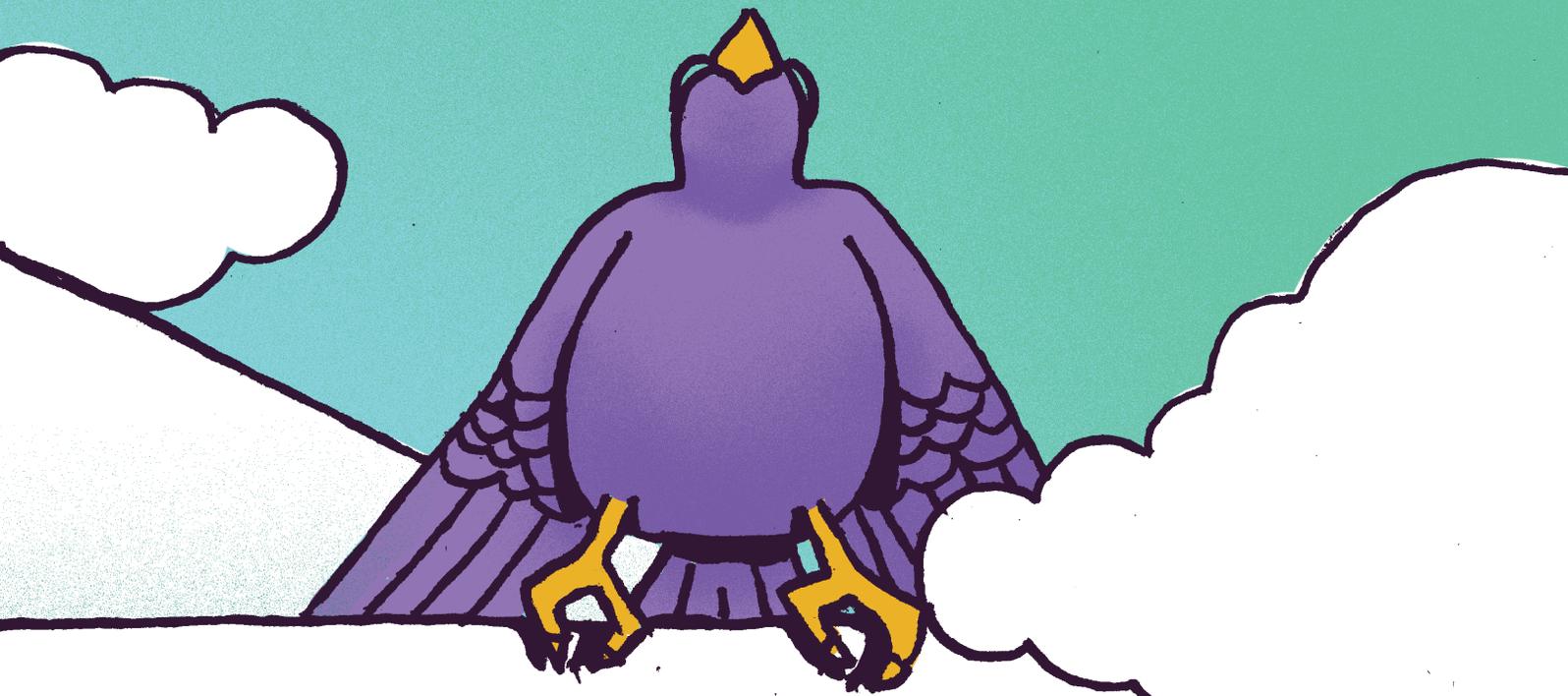
Similarly, the couple wants to see state parks be clean, safe and welcoming just as they’ve experienced with FarmHouse.

“The biggest tip I can give, whether it is hunting, fishing or visiting a natural area is to read the rules and regulations,” says Fraser. “Most of the information is posted clearly. If you ignore the rules, you are reducing the enjoyment of the other visitors. If you have an interaction with us you want it to be a, ‘Hi, how are you?’ not getting a warning or ticket for speeding, parking unlawfully or fishing without a license.” *



OUT OF





OFFICE

These entrepreneurs don't have to set their email as "out of office"—their offices are already outside.

FOR MANY OF US, getting outside is a sense of vacation. It's a moment to take a breath away from the everyday hustle and bustle. It's where you can escape solo to enjoy the quiet, or, where family and friends can roam where inside voices don't count. Above all, it's an excuse to set your automatic reply that simply states: Out of Office.

While spending days under clouds that suspend like cotton and nights beneath a ceiling of stars brighter than any LED bulb are a getaway for most, these alumni have made it their careers. Not in a nomad sense, but in a way that brings their love for the outdoors to everyone—from putt-putt to paragliding.

OUT OF OFFICE

JON ELLIS (IOWA STATE 84)

Spending time with loved ones is not only encouraged, but a building principal at Paradise Park, an adventure attraction owned by Jon Ellis (Iowa State 84) and his wife, Juli, who have been rethinking family night for 27 years.

Located in Lee's Summit, Mo., Paradise Park entertains guests of all ages on 15 acres with activities ranging from mini golf and a rock wall to batting cages and go karts. The Ellis' nearly three decades of building has been driven by the goal of having a destination and gathering place where guests can learn and interact with one another.

"Juli and I identified the need for a well-rounded entertainment destination in our local community," says Ellis.

"We felt we could build a park

over time and develop it into an entertainment center where our guests can enjoy time with each other."

Beginning with two mini golf courses, a game room and batting cages, Paradise Park has grown into a local hot spot for company picnics, concerts, school field trips and parties.

"We have ended every season by saying 'what's next?' and work to improve, expand and diversify the variety of attractions we offer," says Ellis. "Now, the park has dozens of attractions, a full scale of food service and a wide variety of event spaces."

Paradise Park offers indoor activities as well, like laser tag and their most recent addition, escape rooms. Focused on teamwork, guests in the room must

work together to follow the clues needed to escape within a set amount of time.

The indoor and outdoor variety of activities helps the park be a location where families and friends can gather year-round and enjoy safe, clean and fun entertainment—a main focus for the Ellis family whose sons, Jonathan (Iowa State 15) and Brenden (Iowa State 18) also work at the family business when not in school.

"We feel it is important to offer entertainment that is always changing and providing experiences that create memories

people will appreciate," says Ellis.

And watching those memories is one of Ellis' favorite parts.

"We want to share happiness and that feels great."

"We have ended every season by saying, 'what's next?'"



OUT OF OFFICE



“I’m still dreaming and planning on expansion, but at the end of the day, we want to create rustic elegance—from the food to the atmosphere.”

ANDY SPRAGUE (ILLINOIS 86)



As the youngest of three boys—all of whom, including his father and two uncles, are FarmHouse alumni—Andy Sprague (Illinois 86) grew up on his family’s crop farm in Pike County, Ill.

After graduating with a bachelor’s degree in agricultural economics, Sprague spent two years with ConAgra before returning to University of Illinois to work for its Foundation. When a member of his family developed health problems, he returned home to lend a hand, but farming with his brother, Mark (Illinois 78), and dad, Merritt (Illinois 53), wasn’t where his passion laid.

“I have always had an interest in hospitality,” says Sprague. “I worked in hotels and restaurants growing up and saw an opportunity for a hunting lodge.”

Pike County sits between the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers and is known for its quantity and quality of white-tailed deer. Each year, hunters from all over venture in from October to December,

but there was a problem—there’s virtually no lodging in this rural community.

“We had an old farm house that needed a bulldozer or remodeled,” he says. “With the support of my dad and brother, we remodeled it and started out with a seven bedroom, 4,000 square-foot hunting lodge outfitted with a commercial kitchen and dining room.”

The 1848 home, remodeled to preserve its history with a modern flair, was located a few miles from the original homestead Sprague’s ancestors settled in 1836 and became known as Sprague’s Kinderhook Lodge.

While Kinderhook now has staff and a full-time, classically-trained chef, it didn’t start out that way.

“When I came up with the idea, I told my mom, Pat, and she wanted to help out. She didn’t know she was getting a full-time job for nine years,” Sprague jokes. “She poured herself into the business and is the not-so secret to my success.”

Pat prepared meals for guests and gave them the key to hospitality, according to Sprague, through her food—to feel homey and welcome.

It’s clear that Sprague’s hospitable intuition is ingrained into the way he runs his business, but he also gained

knowledge for Kinderhook through a family friend and fellow FarmHouse brother, Chris Eckert (Illinois 91).

“Watching the Eckert family operation, I knew my business wouldn’t look like theirs, but I did pull some ideas and inspiration,” says Sprague, who actually developed a business plan for turning the Eckert barn into an event center during an entrepreneurship class in college.

Eckerts’ originally started as an apple orchard in Belleville, Ill. They now offer a variety of produce and have expanded to feature a restaurant, wine tasting and a store. While Sprague is right and their businesses are different models, he too has expanded.

Kinderhook has evolved from a hunting lodge to a beautiful retreat that also hosts company meetings, craft gatherings, family reunions and a handful of weddings.

The property has expanded as well—now featuring three buildings with multiple rooms and suites.

“Relax, renew, rejuvenate, rest—we use a lot of R’s around here!” says Sprague. “I’m still dreaming and planning on expansion, but at the end of the day, we want to create rustic elegance—from the food to the atmosphere.”

“Once I became a highly skilled pilot, working and starting a business in the field just fell in my lap,”



TODD WEIGAND (IDAHO 97)



There are two types of people in the world: those who choose window seats on an airplane and those who choose the aisle. You may make an argument for the middle seat, but we

all know it wasn't their choice.

The aisle folks tend to seem more scheduled and routine. They're organized and methodical with what goes in the overhead bin and snugly under the seat, and are up immediately when you touch down. Those who opt for the window, however, seem to be less concerned with the minutes between gates and more in

awe of the magic that lies outside the window—puffs of clouds and seas of blue.

When it comes to Todd Weigand's (Idaho 97) career, he picks the window seat.

“Paragliding is as close as I can get to flying free like a bird,” says Weigand. “It is the greatest thing that has happened to me in my life!”

One of the simplest ways to describe Weigand, a man with many titles and business ventures within his industry, is: paragliding pilot, instructor and international guide.

“Due to the seasonal nature of paragliding, I have been traveling and migrating with the winds since I graduated in 2000,” he says.

His 22 years of experience has translated into becoming a strong pilot and businessman, but contrary to popular belief, he wasn't born with

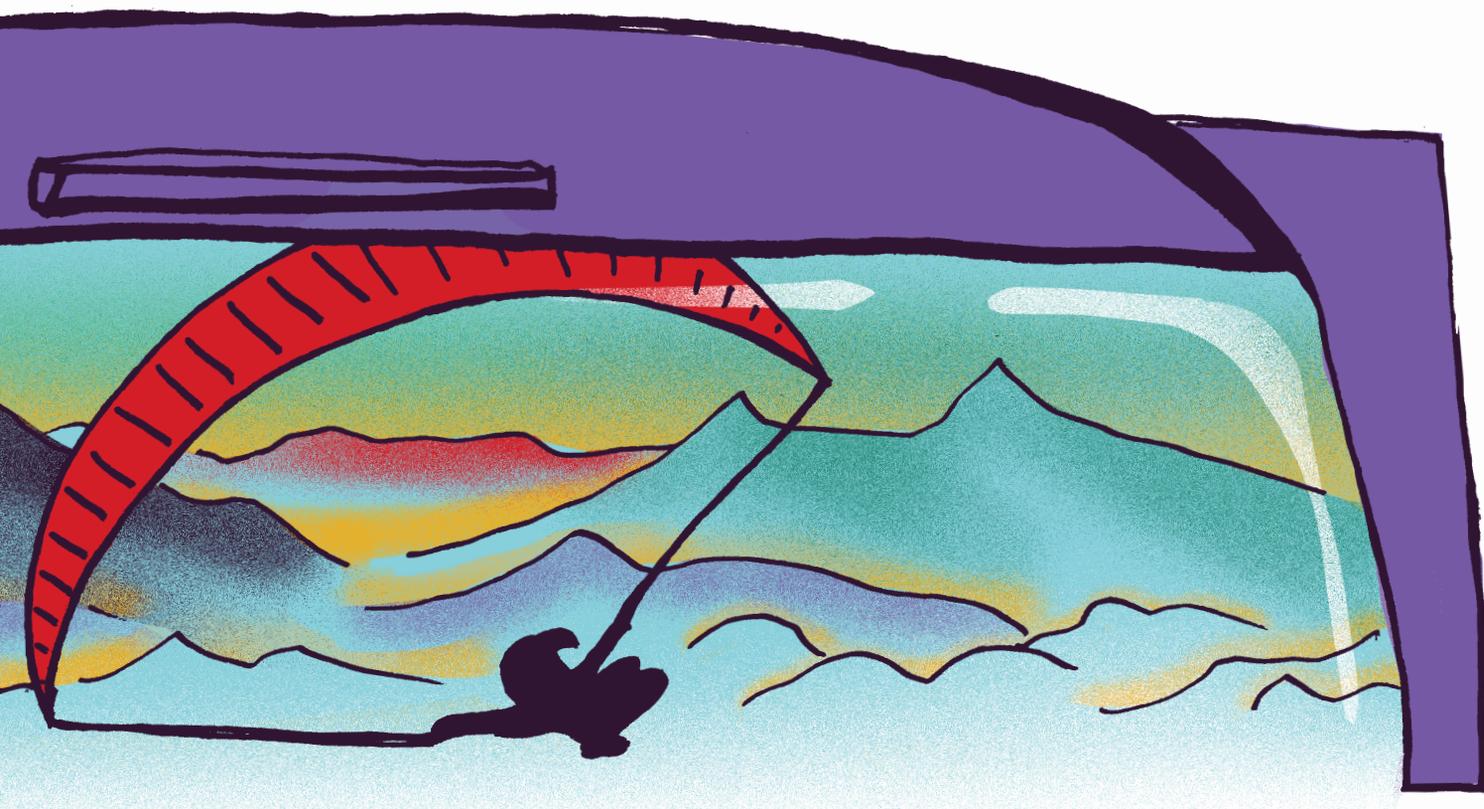
a set of wings—he earned them.

“I started flying paragliders in 1996, my first year at the University of Idaho,” says Weigand. “I grew up on a family farm in Madras, Ore., and had dreams of flying around the potato cellar like the barn owl that lived there. It wasn't until the University where I found an instructor who taught hang gliding and paragliding in the area, and soon took the basic paragliding introduction course. I have been an active pilot ever since.”

After graduating, Weigand spent five years traveling to become a higher-skilled pilot before turning full-time in 2005. Those years of mastery to gain sponsorship and recognition in the industry took him to nearly 20 countries—from Bolivia to Slovenia.

“Working and starting a business came naturally with the progression in the

OUT OF OFFICE



sport. I wanted to become a good pilot, and was infatuated with flying for many years. Once I became a highly skilled pilot, working and starting a business in the field just fell in my lap,” says Weigand of his three companies focused on tandem flights, instruction, specialized gear and more: Wallowa Paragliding LLC, Gradient USA and GForce Paragliding.

“I have personally flown over 5,000 commercial passengers, and have never had any accidents,” he says.

Nerves and a fear of heights are a common response when there’s even a mention of diving off a cliff and feeling the wind beneath your wings, but Weigand’s calm nature and flying skills help him be comfortable flying in very strong conditions.

“This involved learning aerobatics, practicing very technical spot landing skills and being comfortable flying and thermaling in high altitudes, up to 18,000 feet,” he says. “We use thermals (rising columns of warm air) to take

us up high, then glide in the direction we would like to fly until we either find another thermal or land. The idea is to continue riding these thermals all day long so we can fly long distances.”

His experience all laddered up to fulfilling a dream no one had ever attempted—flying over Hell’s Canyon. He gained familiarity of the 10-mile wide canyon located in northeast Oregon while working for the Forest Service as a river ranger for two summers in college. Living just west of the canyon now, he finally felt prepared enough to paraglide over the canyon—something just the glimmer of an idea a few years earlier.

“To cross Hell’s Canyon, I needed to be at a very high altitude at the edge of the canyon in order to make sure I could glide all the way across,” he says. “Landing in the canyon could be very dangerous with the strong winds funneling through and making the air very turbulent.”

Turbulence wasn’t an issue—he made it. “I didn’t really have to compete for

the title, as nobody else was attempting to try it! I was the first person to attempt to cross it, and who knows when the next person will try it.

I have broken many site, state and regional distance records, and crossing Hell’s Canyon was a perfect challenge I was qualified for and familiar with.”

When Weigand isn’t gliding atop his personal launch pad in Oregon, he’s spending several months a year at his other residence in Queenstown, New Zealand. Escaping across the world may seem like time off, but you can still catch Weigand doing what he loves.

“I fly tandem passengers during the ‘southern hemisphere summer,’” he says. “With residency in New Zealand, I became a part-owner in GForce Paragliding, where I have been flying for the last ten southern seasons.”

So, if you need to get ahold of Weigand, there’s chance you can find him soaring through open skies always catching the window seat—rolled down, of course. *





free

Range Childhood

For many, starting a foundation that has planted and distributed more than 250 million trees would serve as a career accomplishment; but, John Rosenow (Nebraska 68) isn't the many.

AFTER RETIRING from the Arbor Day Foundation in 2014, John channeled his passion for the environment and the impact humans are making on it by joining Nature Explore, a non-profit program aiming to connect children with nature, as development director.

"The Nature Explore program is the outcome of research begun in 1998 by Dimensions Educational Research Foundation," he says. "They conducted a wide range of research that led them to children's disconnection from nature."

This disconnection was related to everything from peanut allergies to ADD and the possibility that the next generation wouldn't have the knowledge or interest in taking care of the earth as they grew up struck fear in many environmental stewards like John.

Thus, Nature Explore was born, to create intentionally designed, nature-rich outdoor learning spaces for children—Nature Explore Classrooms.

"Many of us have roots of that in our 'free-range' childhoods," says John. "That's not a part of children's lives today. The factors causing children's disconnection from nature range from stranger danger fears to entertainment on digital devices. Nature Explore Classrooms bring nature to the places children are spending their days, such as child care, preschool or church. These outdoor classrooms support different learning styles and interests. Children are able to learn through movement, experimentation and play."

Play is often a term only used for recess, but John and those at Nature Explore encourage it through the school

day, and it's making behavioral and other impacts—including improving math and science learning.

"Many students who struggle indoors go into a Nature Explore Classroom and excel outdoors," he says. "You can see them gain confidence and a zest for learning."

Seeing the difference hands-on, outdoor learning has on children is reassuring for John. He was able to witness it firsthand during a day in South Central Los Angeles where they were dedicating the first Nature Explore Classroom in LA—a city where they're on track to have more than 100 Classrooms.

"There were many adults there—school district employees, parents, Chamber of Commerce representatives—but in the outdoor classroom, kids were calmly playing and politely ignoring the adults. They were engaged in a constructive way and even the teachers had big smiles," he says.

"On the same day, we went to a different school with a similar culture, but watched kids on a traditional playground. Teachers were doing their best in a calm and loving way, but many children were visibly upset. For them, school was not a positive experience. I saw in one day the profound difference a space can make in a child's life."

For John, taking action to immerse children in nature is a sense of urgency for not only their health, but also the environment.*

Find out more about Nature Explore, including how to encourage your child or grandchild's school to build an outdoor classroom, at natureexplore.org.

The background is a solid, vibrant green. Three footprints, made of a darker, textured material like sand or mud, are scattered across the surface. One is at the top center, one is to the right of the main title, and one is at the bottom left. The title 'FOLLOW IN THE FOOTSTEPS' is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters, centered on the page.

FOLLOW IN THE FOOTSTEPS

Generation after generation, FarmHouse men enter college to equip themselves with the tools to be successful in their careers, friendships and relationships. While each path is different, many have similar ambitions post-graduation. Here are a couple of brothers—undergraduates and alumni—who have more than pearls and rubies in common and are preserving the earth one step at a time.



On the Landscape

A SUMMER JOB and love of the game of golf inspired Wesley Grogan (Kansas State 16) to major in turfgrass management and golf course operations upon coming to college.

“I mowed lawns for several summers and I love to play golf,” says Grogan. “I just really enjoy being outside.”

Starting his junior year in the fall, Grogan’s first goal once he earns his degree is to run a golf course as a superintendent and have control over a crew.

“I want to be outdoors for my career and be able to see what the work I put in yields on

a golf course someday,” he says.

“My second option would be to start a local company with my own business platform and be successful enough to support my future family,” says Grogan.

Grogan isn’t the only FH brother who has been enamored by greenery: Troy Rhone (Auburn 9) who resides in Mountain Brook, Ala., designs and builds residential and hospitality gardens across the United States.

While their expected and current specialties differ, they both fall under the landscaping umbrella. Rhone, who is self employed, understands the challenges of being your own boss, even if it’s in an industry you love.

“Growing a business can be difficult

and stressful,” says Rhone. “After growing my company to a certain size, I realized my time had to be spent on the business end of things and not what I loved. So, I ended up breaking it apart and selling the majority so I could get back to what I was enjoying.” And that was garden design.

“I have always loved architecture, construction and gardening,” says Rhone, who majored in horticulture as an undergraduate. “So, what I’m doing today is perfect.”

Rhone’s nearly two decades of experience of combining his interests and strengths provide a platform of helpful advice to his younger predecessor.

“Don’t be afraid to blaze your own trail. Be your own person and think of new ways of doing things.”

Blazing a trail, while being environmentally friendly, of course, is exactly what Grogan has in mind.

“I am super excited to be able to have my own operation, or at least co-own, and be able to support the environment,” he says.

When it comes to hobbies, it’s no surprise that both men, whose love of the outdoors inspired their career choices from the get-go, like to spend their leisure time the same way they do from nine to five.

“Honestly it’s gardening,” says Rhone. “I have always enjoyed it. Working in a garden provides satisfaction and is very rewarding—you can literally enjoy the fruit of your labor.”

“My favorite outdoor activity is to play golf at different courses. Around my area, it gives me ideas for the future and the opportunity to make connections,” says Grogan. “For me, golfing provides a competitive atmosphere where I can relax and enjoy the little things like sunsets, fresh air and beauty of nature.”

“The beauty of nature seems to be a commonstance,” as Rhone puts it simply.

“Everyone loves nature,” says Rhone. “It’s exciting to think about the part I will play in making the world a more beautiful place.”

“Don’t be afraid to blaze your own trail. Be your own person and think of new ways of doing things.”

— Troy Rhone (Auburn 94)



WESLEY GROGAN
(Kansas State 16)

TROY RHONE
(Auburn 95)

Life's a Forest

Ken Booker (Mississippi State 89) was looking toward the future when he graduated with his bachelor's degree in forestry, a master's in forest economics and a master's of business administration.

"I enjoy the outdoors and the down-to-earth people associated with rural communities," says Booker. "Forestry entails a lot of science, and the economics of forestry fascinate me."

So, it seems a natural fit that Booker serves as forester and vice president for Regions Bank in the company's natural resources and real estate department based in Jackson, Miss. Primarily working in Mississippi, Booker manages timberland held in trust as well as assists private landowners.

"Timberland management includes appraising timber, drafting harvest plans, conducting timber sales, monitoring harvests, coordinating reforestation and administering hunting leases," he says. "Much of my interpersonal skills involve communicating with landowners, trust officers, lawyers, accountants, loggers, timber buyers and hunters."

As an up-and-coming forester, Andrew Larson's (Iowa State 17) will to pursue this industry also spawned from a love for the great outdoors and seeing a need for more people to help improve natural resources, especially throughout the Midwest, where he's from.

"Last fall, I traveled to western Montana and studied forestry for a month," says Larson. "I was fortunate enough to meet, learn from and work next to future and present day foresters and conservationists."

From studies along a local creek to visiting areas recently burned by wildfire, Larson was immersed in what his career path might look like and learned best management practices in the forests of the Northwest.

"This summer I will work at Kickapoo Creek Nursery, where I will learn the ins and outs of managing a modern day tree farm," says Larson. "I want to learn about all of the different species offered and their many benefits."

While Larson is just getting started, Booker has more than 20 years of experience and has seen the ebb and flow

"Forestry is multi-generational. What you do today has profound ripple effects into the future. Someone once said that we don't really own the land, we borrow it from our children and grandchildren. Our children may be our personal legacy to the world, but how we manage the land is our financial (and ecological) legacy to our children."

— Ken Booker (Mississippi State 89)

KEN BOOKER
(Mississippi State 89)



ANDREW LARSON
(Iowa State 17)

of a dynamic and ever-changing field.

"You wouldn't think that an industry that deals with a slow growing resource like trees could change so fast," says Booker.

"Forestry is multi-generational. What you do today has profound ripple effects into the future. Someone once said that we don't really own the land, we borrow it from our children and grandchildren. Our children may be our personal legacy to the world, but how we manage the land is our financial (and ecological) legacy to our children."

Larson is preparing himself for change

Follow in the Footsteps



and looking at how he can impact the industry going forward. One of the biggest challenges he sees himself and fellow urban foresters facing is ever increasing urbanization and development.

“I believe in the next 10 years environmentalism will become a very hot topic and more and more people will want to help find ways to incorporate trees and plants into everyday life,” he says. “I’m excited to see how cities continue to develop and place more emphasis on green spaces and the conservation of their trees.”

The ability to adapt and be flexible is what Booker relates to success in this field, even recalling a time early in his career when he worked with a landowner who needed extra education and compromise.

“I’ve never forgotten that punting can be a form of success. You didn’t score a touchdown, but it does allow you time to regroup and try again.

When Larson isn’t working at the nursery or planning a wind break to surround a local park and helping plant trees and shrubs during the summer

you can find him with a rod and lure.

“Fishing is by far my favorite outdoor activity and you can probably catch me fishing nearly every day this summer.”

For Booker, his break is hiking.

“It allows me time to unwind and enjoy God’s creation away from the noise of the modern life. I’m involved in my sons’ Boy Scout troop as assistant scoutmaster,” he says. “That allows me the opportunity to teach growing boys— young men—about the wonder of nature and to enjoy time in the woods.” ★

More than a **HAMMOCK**

Greg McEvilly (Texas Tech O4) is leading the outdoor industry in not only gear, but upon his belief that adventure changes lives.

“Everything we do at Kammok is motivated by our three core values:

ADVENTURE, COMMUNITY AND LOVE.”



More than a Hammock



IF THERE'S ONE THING that describes Kammok from the bottom to the top, it's Greg's title: chief inspiration officer. With degrees in marketing, management and business administration, his experience undoubtedly ladders up to those with executive attached to their names, but he chose to be a "culture-shaper" instead.

"My aim is to change culture at large for the better, and products are a means to that end," says Greg, who started Kammok, a company focusing on creating technical outdoor gear to elevate camping—literally—in 2010. "Everything we do at Kammok is motivated by our three core values: adventure, community and love."

Before a ripped hammock inspired a name brand, Greg spent time at a real estate development firm working his way up from an unpaid intern to being on the leasing and brokerage team.

"Looking back, I see those years as formative to help me develop grit, gumption and entrepreneurial drive," says Greg, who, after three years, decided to pursue a graduate degree focused on public service and nonprofit development. It was during that time he was inspired to build a better hammock, so he decided to put his entrepreneurial spirit into action.

"The driving passion for starting Kammok is still the driving passion that keeps me excited to create new products, experiences and relationships today. I started Kammok with the strong belief adventure changes lives. This is why we create high-performance outdoor gear—because we believe great products can catalyze life-changing adventures."

With camping products ranging from single hammocks to ones suitable for dogs, to shelters and insulation, physical materials are just one part of

the company. The vision of being an entrepreneur looked like a nonprofit to Greg before starting Kammok, so when it came down to the building blocks of his company, giving back was one of them.

"We believe in the growth that comes from experiences outdoors. Yet, the average teen spends less than seven minutes a day of unstructured play outside, and more than seven hours in front of screens," says Greg, who made the conscious decision to invest in young explorers in an effort to foster outdoor experiences that inspire a lifetime of adventure.

"It is important to me and our team we sacrificially put our precious resources to work directly changing lives."

A percentage of every purchase is allocated to mentoring young explorers, creating transformational outdoor experiences and building lasting communities for Austin's youth—the city Kammok calls home.

Investing in the next generation isn't just a give-back for Greg, it goes well beyond business hours and into his home with his 2- and 5-year-old children.

"I hope to teach and model for them (my kids) a way of living that leads to life. My desire is they would act justly,

love mercy and walk humbly with God."

Without surprise, some of those teachings also involve a hammock.

"I love that 'camp' can be a physical place and also a mindset," he says. "For instance, my kids love to 'camp' with me in their forts made with pillows and sheets, or in our backyard when swinging in our hammock talking about the moon and stars."

But with surprise, Greg's experiences that led to his success today don't involve a hammock at all.

"Being a member of FarmHouse gave me opportunity to practice leadership amongst a group of friends and brothers who were committed to the same values," he says. "I learned living out the values of FarmHouse will always require a sacrifice. But, I also learned it is in giving and sacrificing that true adventure is found."

Above all, Greg's advice for future self-starters and his business model seem to go hand in hand, and always with a little inspiration.

"Value people. Be true to yourself. Cultivate convictions in the good seasons, and they will hold you in the rough seasons. Also, if we lived out the values of FarmHouse on a daily basis, imagine what our lives and the world might look like." *

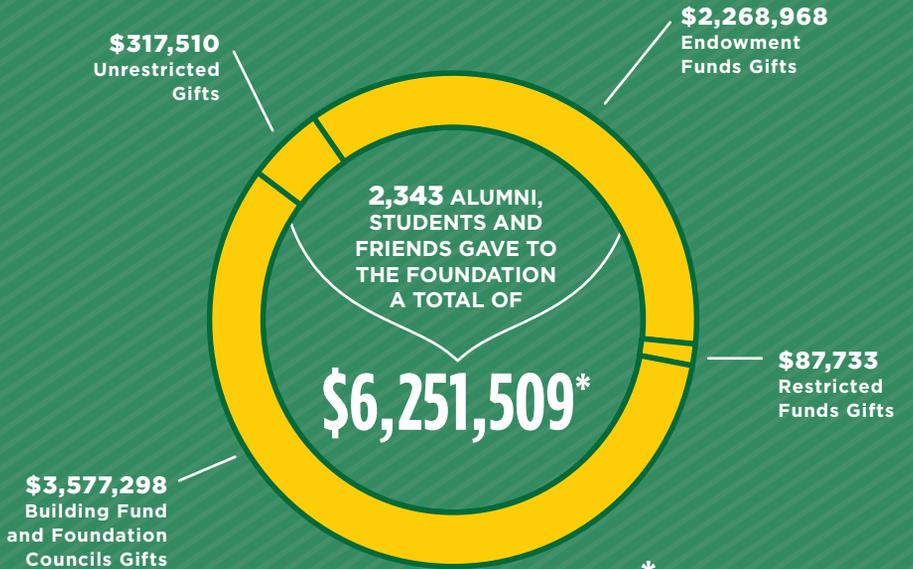




FARMHOUSE FOUNDATION

2017-2018 HIGHLIGHTS

FISCAL YEAR 3.1.17-2.28.18



* Record year in giving

THE FOUNDATION PROVIDED 213 GRANTS IN SEVEN AREAS TOTALING:

\$3,131,012

YOUR GIFTS MADE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT IN BUILDING THE LEADERS OF TOMORROW

Leadership Training

\$223,513 was granted to the International Fraternity and to individual chapters for leadership programs, including a record grant for the FH Leadership Institute.

Educational Portion of Chapter Housing

\$2,632,600 was administered for the educational portion of new or renovated chapter houses on 12 campuses.

Scholarships

\$106,755 in scholarships awarded to 111 undergraduates.

Computer Labs and Affiliated Technology

\$5,864 in grants were made to the International Fraternity and three chapters for in-house computers and technology.

Re-contribution to Chapters

\$4,719 was distributed to the chapters' foundation councils for their specific educational uses and needs through the Annual Fund's re-contribution program.

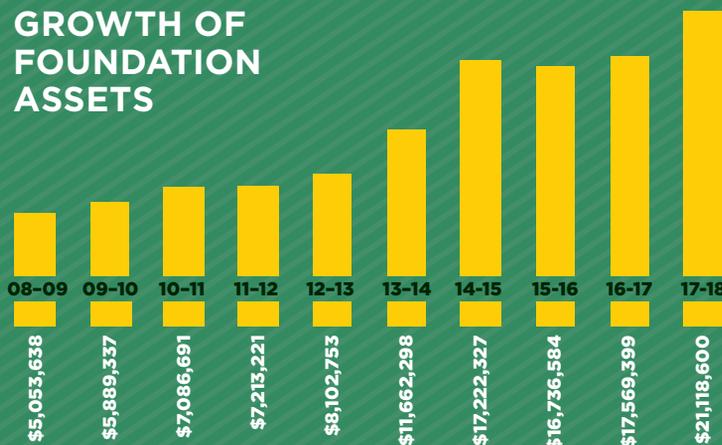
Program Services

\$84,335 for the Foundation staff to administer the educational grants of the Fraternity and chapters.

Fraternity Support

\$73,226 supported the operations of the International Office, membership database, online communications to all members, and *Pearls & Rubies*.

GROWTH OF FOUNDATION ASSETS



\$0.06 FUNDRAISING EXPENSES

\$1.00 PER DOLLAR RAISED

Over **11%** of FarmHouse members made a gift.

*Fraternal foundations average **2.62%** in alumni participation.



Building Today For Tomorrow

EVERY GENERATION LEAVES BEHIND A LEGACY—an heirloom, family photo albums or a farmstead. These tangible gifts are tied to more than their substance, they are filled with memories, lessons, losses and accomplishments—intangible experiences and values.

Making a lasting impact and good stewardship led Ralph Harrison (Oklahoma State 69) to make a unique investment with the FarmHouse Foundation, a gift of mineral rights from the land his family has cared for through multiple generations.

In 1896, Ralph's great-grandfather came to the Great Plains in a covered wagon and settled in north central Oklahoma.

"My family farmed and ranched that land. All the land is multigenerational," he said. Ralph grew up on this same land as generations did before him. Land his family cultivated and has taken care of for over a century. "We grew up with an appreciation for the land, we're all closely tied to it. We look to make sure its taken care of."

Farmers and ranchers know this call. The feeling of working on land passed down through the generations, each investing blood, sweat, tears and joys. More than the hard work, it is a fertile ground for out-of-the-box thinking as well as deep-seated values.

As a freshman at Oklahoma State University (OSU), Ralph found some more fertile ground for his growth and development.

"My FarmHouse experience was so positive, it brings many fond memories. It was one of the best times of my life. My FarmHouse brothers have continued to be friends to this day. Being associated with high achievers makes a person shoot higher. It made me seek out more."

Even then, Ralph knew there were challenges. "I was at OSU from the fall of 1968 to 1972. Even then our chapter house was well-worn and it went on to be used for another 40 years. You don't select a fraternity based on the house but with the chapter's long record of accomplishments, it needed a house to match."

Just as his family's land has become multigenerational, Ralph has seen his fraternal values in FarmHouse become multigenerational. "In addition to the friendships I have from my undergraduate experience, I've seen my son and now my grandson be members and flourish. It keeps granddad interested and involved."

For the building experiences in his life, Ralph credits not only his experiences on his family's farm and ranch, he credits his FarmHouse membership and his wife, Denise.

"Although Denise and I had not met during my time at FarmHouse, she has become a strong supporter of FarmHouse and the values it stands for. With our son and grandson both being members of FarmHouse, she has witnessed first-hand why FarmHouse is known as 'Builders of Men'."

Seeing the continued benefit of FarmHouse motivated Ralph to give. "I wanted to share that with others. I've given to the new FarmHouse chapter house at Oklahoma State. I want to see the experience go on for other young men."

Oklahoma State FarmHouse built a new house in 2012, which cost \$8.8 million. The newer and more spacious living-learning chapter house accommodates 88 members, more members than the house Ralph lived in could. While the campaign to build the chapter house was successful, a new capital campaign is underway to pay down the mortgage debt and support the ongoing maintenance of the chapter house.

To keep funding and to provide housing for those same experiences today and tomorrow, Ralph chose to make a living legacy for FarmHouse from the natural resources passed down to him.

"It was a win-win," shared Ralph. "North central Oklahoma has seen a boom. Mineral rights here have greatly appreciated in value over the past decade. Had I sold the rights and given the proceeds, we would have had a big chunk lost to pay taxes. By giving the mineral rights directly to the FarmHouse Foundation to sell, FarmHouse gets 100% of the value."

Ralph's gift of mineral rights made last November is the first of its kind for the FarmHouse Foundation. Ralph points out that this type of gift not only applies to mineral rights but other types of property such as land, stocks and commodities. "If someone is inclined, they ought to consult with their attorney, CPA and the Foundation."

"When I first spoke to Allison Rickels with the FarmHouse Foundation, she made it very easy. While the Foundation hadn't received a gift of mineral rights before, it worked out very well and it was an easy process."

Today his gift has been put to work for his chapter's living-learning facility through the Oklahoma State Building Fund.

Ralph also added, "The decision to make a contribution to the FarmHouse Foundation has really been a joint decision by both my wife and myself."

Ralph's living legacy makes an immediate impact today but the ripples reach far. This legacy is seen in how he pays his FarmHouse experiences forward and how he and his family have cared for the land. *



Ralph Harrison (Oklahoma State 69) is an attorney and president of Harrison & Mecklenburg, Inc., where his practice focuses primarily on real estate, oil and gas, estate planning and administration, and commercial law. He has practiced law in Kingfisher, Okla., since 1975. His wife, Denise, is an elementary school teacher; their daughter, Kristen is a professor of pharmacy at Southwestern Oklahoma State University; and son, Jared (Oklahoma State 00), is an attorney and shareholder with Harrison & Mecklenburg, Inc. Ralph's grandson, Dakota Harrison (Oklahoma State 15) graduated in 2018.

WHY I GIVE . . .



Tarry Edington (Michigan State 61)

“When I retired in 2013, my wife, Polly, and I set about completing a plan for retirement income and end-of-life estate affairs. We chose to use the FarmHouse Foundation as one of the avenues for accomplishing two objectives. One was to leave a legacy gift in recognition of the significant contribution to my growth, development and relationships during college. The other was to provide assured sustained income for the remainder of our lives.

With a combination of a charitable gift annuity and an endowment fund with FarmHouse Foundation, we were able to achieve both objectives. The Foundation’s annuity rates were favorable compared to other investment options for sustained income for the remainder of our lives. And, our desired legacy gift was achieved with designating the remainder of the annuity upon death to the endowment fund to benefit the Michigan State FH Chapter in perpetuity.

The process to establish both was easy with very proficient professional assistance from Allison Rickels, Foundation CEO. She helped us clearly understand how each would work and how they would interrelate to achieve our two objectives.

What we achieved in using this combination is a win, win, win, win. These wins are: charitable gift income tax deduction, limited taxability of annuity income, assured income for life and perpetually benefitting my chapter.”

Charitable Gift Annuity Rates on the Rise

WE HAVE SOME EXCITING NEWS to share that can boost a donor’s retirement income and support your Fraternity at the same time.

Effective July 1, 2018, charitable gift annuity rates will increase. This increase along with today’s low interest rates offer great incentives to open a charitable gift annuity with the FH Foundation.

The American Council on Gift Annuities (ACGA) recently announced an increase in recommended charitable gift annuity rates, for gifts established on or after July 1, 2018.

The FarmHouse Foundation offers gift annuities and follows the ACGA recommended rates. A gift annuity is a simple, straightforward contract between the donor(s) and the FarmHouse Foundation, which stipulates the Foundation will pay the donor(s) a guaranteed annual income for up to two life expectancies.

Given the Foundation Trustees’ strong record for investing for the long term, we believe that we will be able to maintain the corpus of each annuity and even grow it in perpetuity.

How it Works

For as little as \$10,000, you can make a donation using cash, marketable securities or other assets, and the FarmHouse Foundation, in turn, will pay you a fixed amount for life.

With this type of gift, you can feel secure knowing you can count on receiving stable payments for as long as you live.

And now, if you make your gift on or after July 1, the gift annuity rates will be higher than they have been in over six years.

How You May Benefit

Under the current rate schedule, John, 72, transfers \$25,000 in exchange for a charitable gift annuity. He will receive annual payments of \$1,350, a rate of 5.4 percent. However, if John waits to make his gift on or after the new rate schedule is in place on July 1, the same gift amount will provide \$1,450 in annual payments, reflecting a 5.8 percent rate. That’s a payout rate increase of approximately 7.4 percent.

In addition to the opportunity to increase your retirement income as you help shape our future, gift annuities offer you numerous tax benefits, including:

- A partial income tax charitable deduction now for your gift when you itemize;
- Part of each payment is income tax-free throughout your estimated life expectancy; and,
- Capital gains tax savings on appreciated property you donate.

Request a Personalized Illustration

The Foundation Staff would be happy to send you a free, no-obligation illustration showing the increased benefits you can receive from a charitable gift annuity if you make your gift on or after July 1, 2018. The personalized illustration will include the potential income tax charitable deduction, annual payments to you for life and ways to invest in your Fraternity.

You are our future.

Contact Allison Rickels, Foundation CEO, at Allison@FarmHouse.org or 816.891.9445 to discuss how you can receive extra income while at the same time change lives, not just someday, but every day and forever. *

California residents: Annuities are subject to regulation by the State of California. Payments under such agreements, however, are not protected or otherwise guaranteed by any government agency or the California Life and Health Insurance Guarantee Association.

Oklahoma residents: A charitable gift annuity is not regulated by the Oklahoma Insurance Department and is not protected by a guaranty association affiliated with the Oklahoma Insurance Department.

South Dakota residents: Charitable gift annuities are not regulated by and are not under the jurisdiction of the South Dakota Division of Insurance.

WHY I GIVE . . .



Charles Stuber (Nebraska 49)

“FarmHouse has been a very important part in my life and the development of my career. My giving to FarmHouse is a tangible way that I can compensate for all that the Fraternity has done for me.

When I enrolled at the University of Nebraska (UNL) at the age of 16, I was a shy country boy and roomed in a small apartment with two of my friends from my hometown. I had no intention of joining a fraternity. During the second semester of my freshman year, I was invited to FarmHouse for dinner. I was impressed with the group and when I was asked to join, I responded enthusiastically.

When I look back at those years as an undergraduate, I realize how much FarmHouse contributed to my professional growth and leadership development. In addition, the lifetime friendships I made with men such as Clayton Yeutter (Nebraska 49) and Steve Eberhart (Nebraska 49) also

contributed greatly to my career.

After I received my bachelor’s degree, I had to honor my obligation to serve in the military, which I did in the Navy for nearly four years. I was then going to spend the rest of my life as a farmer. I farmed for three years then listened to Steve Eberhart, and my wife, Marilyn, who encouraged me to go to graduate school. I left the farm and completed a master’s degree at UNL and a Ph.D. at North Carolina State University.

My professional career has been very productive in that I was involved in pioneering research that led to the DNA-based marker selection technology that is used by all of the major breeding companies as well as by most public plant and animal breeders. In addition, I served as president of both the Crop Science Society of America and the American Society of Agronomy. I am now director of the Plant Breeding Consortium at NC State University. My life would probably have been quite different

without the influence of FarmHouse.

Why did I decide to use a charitable gift annuity as part of my giving plan to FarmHouse?

“I feel the charitable gift annuity was a win-win for both me and my wife, and FarmHouse. Funds I had in a money market account were earning very little interest. The interest that we are now receiving on the annuity is about six percent. Not only did we have a sizeable benefit on our income tax when we made the donation to FarmHouse, only a small proportion of the income generated each year is taxable. If the FarmHouse Foundation is successful with its investments, when my wife and I die there should be a significant portion of our gift left for the Foundation.

I do not know if this has been verified, however someone told me people who fund charitable gift annuities tend to live longer. If this is true, this is another reason to make such gifts.”

Current and new comparative gift annuity rates...

ONE LIFE			TWO LIVES		
Age	Current Rate	Gifts made on or after July 1, 2018	Age	Current Rate	Gifts made on or after July 1, 2018
60	4.4%	4.7%	60/65	4.0%	4.3%
65	4.7%	5.1%	65/70	4.4%	4.7%
70	5.1%	5.6%	70/75	4.8%	5.2%
75	5.8%	6.2%	75/80	5.3%	5.7%
80	6.8%	7.3%	80/85	6.1%	6.6%
85	7.8%	8.3%	85/90	7.3%	8.0%
90+	9.0%	9.5%	90/95	8.8%	9.3%

Foundation Donors

26 Alumni Join Top Honor Roll Clubs



Paul Barbour Rich Connell Kenny Davis Steve Davis



Steve Henry Larry Hixson Robery Holm Kent Lucken



James McJunkins James Parochetti Barry Pollard Rick Davis



Russ Roberson Terry Schott Charles Stuber Robert Walton



Mark Werner Tom Whiteing Shayne Woodard

THE FARMHOUSE Foundation was pleased to welcome 26 new members into its highest giving societies between February 9, 2018 to May 21, 2018.

CORNERSTONE SOCIETY

Accumulative gifts of \$500,000 or more

Kenneth R. Davis (Oklahoma State 83) is an attorney for the Hartzog Conger Cason & Neville law firm in Oklahoma City. He specializes in commercial, business and financial transactions, and oil and gas law. He is also a partner in Davis Farms and manages its wheat and canola operations. He and his wife, Gina, live in Guthrie, Okla.

Rick J. Davis (Oklahoma State 80) is partner of Davis Farms, a family-owned wheat, beef and dairy farming operation,

with primary responsibility for beef and dairy operations. He is also the managing partner of Dimmitt Farms, LLC, a hay production and supply company. He and his wife, Pam, live in Guthrie, Okla.

Steven C. Davis (Oklahoma State 77) is a longtime partner with Hartzog Conger Cason & Neville, a practice specializing in tax planning, tax controversies, wealth transfer planning, trusts and estates, mergers and acquisitions. Steve is also a partner in Davis Farms, and the manager of Iron Mound Investments, LLC. He and his wife, Gail, live in Guthrie, Okla.

CENTURY CLUB

Accumulative gifts of \$100,000 to \$249,999

Charles W. Stuber (Nebraska 49) is director of the Plant Breeding Consortium at North Carolina State University (NCSU). Prior to this, he was a research geneticist for the USDA Agricultural Research Service and a professor of genetics at NCSU from 1962 until he retired in 1998. He and his wife, Marilyn, live in Raleigh, N.C. *See article on pg. 39.*

DOANE CLUB

Accumulative gifts of \$50,000 to \$99,999

Steve R. Henry (Iowa State 80) is CEO of LongView Farms, a commercial and seed-crop operation. His three sons, Scott (Iowa State 09), Kyle (Iowa State 12) and Eric (Iowa State 14), are members of FarmHouse. He and his wife, Laurie, live in Nevada, Iowa.

Kent A. Lucken (Iowa State 83) is managing director of Citigroup Private Bank in Boston and serves as the firm's North American head of financial sponsors. He is a 14-year veteran of the U.S. Foreign Service, where he completed diplomatic assignments at the U.S. Embassies in Italy, the Soviet Union and Russia, Georgia, Croatia, Bosnia and Slovenia. He and his wife, Kristen, live in Newton, Mass.

James V. Parochetti (Illinois 59) is retired national program leader for the division of plant systems production for

the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. He lives in Falls Church, Va.

W. Shayne Woodard (Texas Tech 85) is founder and owner of Waterloo Lobby & Advocacy, Inc., lobbying primarily with the Texas state legislature. He serves as a Foundation Trustee. He and his wife, Jennifer, live in Austin, Texas.

H.K. WILSON CLUB

Accumulative gifts of \$25,000 to \$49,999

Robert E. Holm (Purdue 59) is retired executive director of the IR-4 program, a government-funded program that facilitates registration of sustainable pest management technology for specialty crops and minor uses. Prior to this, he had a career in research and development management roles in the crop protection industry. He and his wife, Nancy, live in Holly Springs, N.C.

James E. Leonard (Ohio State 60) is a retired Colonel in the U.S. Army. Before retiring, he was vice president of Battelle Memorial Institute, a nonprofit applied science and technology development company. He and his wife, Jan, live in Columbus, Ohio.

Russell L. Roberson (Auburn 78) recently retired after serving as vice president of quality and regulatory assurance for GE Healthcare Information Technology. In this global role, he worked to assure GE products and services were designed, manufactured, distributed and serviced properly. He was a Foundation Trustee from 2011-14. He and his wife, Linda, live in Leesburg, Fla.

Robert E. Walton (Oklahoma State 50) is retired CEO and chairman of the American Breeders Service and a renowned geneticist. He developed the Estimated Daughter Superiority Formula, which significantly enhanced the dairy, beef and crop agriculture business. He lives in DeForest, Wis.

Mark G. Werner (Minnesota 71) is a veterinarian. He and his business partner have founded several other companies, including Veterinary Provisions and Aurora Pharmaceuticals. His research led



“It is simply the best way to transfer wisdom between top leaders from different generations.”
 — Randy Linville (Kansas State 73)

2018 Power of 7 Success

TRANSFERRING WISDOM is at the heart of the FarmHouse Foundation’s Power of 7 Seminar. The Omni Grove Park Inn in Asheville, N.C. was host to the 12th Annual Seminar held April 20–22, 2018.

Wisdom and life lessons were shared as alumni led roundtable discussions on building their careers and businesses, debated national and world challenges and discussed how FarmHouse influences all of this. **Jim Tobin** (Iowa State 76) and **Jim Herbert** (Tennessee 61) opened the weekend with stories and leadership lessons during the “Clayton Yeutter (Nebraska 49) Lecture: Lessons in

Leadership.” Another weekend highlight was a private guided tour of the Biltmore Estate and dinner in downtown Asheville.

A special thank you to the Second 7 Founders who shared their wisdom, served as mentors and helped make the Seminar possible this year: **Rick Brock** (Purdue 71), **Jim Hendrix** (Colorado State 72), **Jim Herbert** (Tennessee 61), **Bob Knief** (Illinois 89), **Dick Kruse** (Kansas State 63), **Randy Linville** (Kansas State 73), **Jim Tobin** (Iowa State 76), **Harold Tuma** (Kansas State 52), **Ron Vaske** (South Dakota State 87) and **Jim Wieland** (North Dakota State 72). Also, thank you to **Steve**

Davis (Oklahoma State 77) and **Doug Sims** (Illinois 65) who generously made Annual Fund gifts in support of the Power of 7 Seminar, but were unable to attend.

Interested in attending in 2019? Save the date—the 13th Annual Power of 7 Seminar will be held in April 2019. Undergraduate applications will be available next January. Alumni who make an unrestricted gift of \$7,000 or more during the 2018–19 fiscal year are invited to attend and mentor one of FarmHouse’s top undergraduates during the weekend. Contact **Allison Rickels**, allison@farmhouse.org or 816.891.9445 for more information. *

to the development of a cat vaccine and he discovered how to deliver medications in water systems. Aurora Pharmaceuticals has 20 nationally marketed products, including 5 FDA approvals. He and his wife, **Mary**, live in Northfield, Minn.

1905 CLUB

Accumulative gifts of \$10,000 to \$24,999

Paul M. Barbour (Oklahoma State 08) is a frac sand category manager for Devon Energy, an independent oil and natural gas exploration and production company. He and his wife, **Sarah**, live in Edmond, Okla.

James W. Barker (Iowa State 77) is a farmer. He and his wife, **Mary**, live in Ireton, Iowa.

C. Richard Connell (Iowa State 49) is founder and retired president of Rich Connell Agri-Search Inc., a personnel search firm for agriculture companies. Prior to this, he worked for 23 years in

management and sales with Farmland Industries. He lives in Seymour, Ill.

Alec B. Davis (Oklahoma State 16) is an undergraduate member and student at Oklahoma State University. He lives in Guthrie, Okla.

Larry C. Hixson (Kansas State 60) is a retired farmer, rancher and manager of Hixson Farms, Inc. He and his wife, **Jean**, live in WaKeeney, Kan.

W. Larry Justice (Kansas State 60) is retired vice president of operations for ConAgra Soybean Processing Co. He and his wife, **Marie**, live in Olathe, Kan.

James E. McJunkins (Arkansas 80) is president and CEO of Farm Credit Midsouth. He and his wife, **Jeanette**, live in Jonesboro, Ark.

C. Dale Miksch (Kansas State 55) is retired after a 33-year career in production with the Garst and Thomas Hybrid Corn Company and succeeding companies. He lives in Coon Rapids, Iowa.

Ronald D. Olson (Iowa State 67) is

retired vice president of grain operations for General Mills. He and his wife, **Lynn**, live in Minneapolis, Minn.

Barry Pollard (Oklahoma State 70) is a neurosurgeon and owns Neurological Surgery Associates. He is owner and president of P&K Equipment, a network of John Deere dealerships across Oklahoma, Arkansas and Iowa and he owns an Angus breeding operation, Pollard Farms, LLC. He and his wife, **Roxanne**, live in Enid, Okla.

Terence G. Schott (Iowa State 78) is a financial associate with Thrivent Financial. His son, **Austin** (Iowa State 10) is also a member of FarmHouse. He and his wife, **Nancy**, live in Plover, Wis.

Robert M. Smidt (Nebraska 56) is retired vice president of North American consumer logistics for Kimberly Clark. He and his wife, **Joyce**, live in The Villages, Fla.

Thomas G. Whiteing (Nebraska 02) is a financial advisor and director of advisor development for Renaissance Financial. He and his wife, **Kelli**, live in Elkhorn, Neb. *

Alumni NEWS

Arkansas



Over thirty 1950's and 60's Arkansas FH initiates and spouses met for a reunion in Hot Springs, Ark. in late April. This is the 12th they've gathered for a reunion.



Michel Ransom (Arkansas 70) was honored by the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) with a 2018 NACTA Educator Award. Dr. Michel Ransom is a professor of soil classification and mineralogy and assistant head for teaching in the department of agronomy at Kansas State University.

Illinois State



Ryan Anderson (Illinois State 98) was honored by the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) with a 2018 NACTA Educator Award. Dr. Ryan Anderson is a professor of agriculture at Sauk Valley Community College, where he started the new agriculture program.

Sean Arians (Illinois State 03) won the Illinois Farm Bureau Excellence in Agriculture Award. Sean lives near Waterloo, Ill., farms in northwestern Illinois and is the marketing manager for The Climate Corporation. In 2015, Sean won the American Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmers and Ranchers Discussion Meet. He is the president of the Illinois State FarmHouse Association.



Iowa State



Chad Harris (Iowa State 98) has been appointed as the new chief development officer for Cornerstones of Care, a Kansas City based nonprofit. He will plan, direct and coordinate all major fundraising activities and special projects associated with meeting and increasing funding and organizational development goals. Chad is the immediate past executive director of FarmHouse International Fraternity and is a doctoral candidate at the University of Missouri in leadership and organizational development.

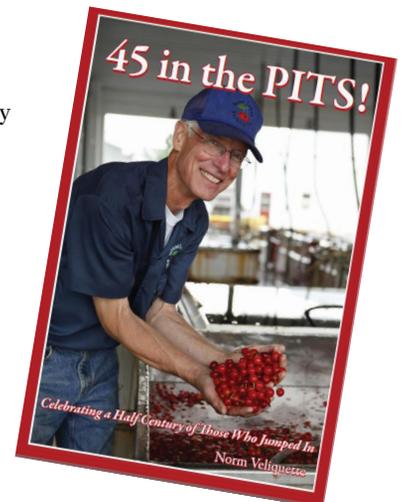
Kansas State



The 50th Beef Empire Days (BED) parade in Garden City, Kan. was marshaled by **Harold Tuma** (Kansas State 52). Harold was the first BED beef carcass show judge. Harold is both an academic and an entrepreneur and was featured in the Spring 2018 issue of *Pearls & Rubies*. Harold is a past member of the FarmHouse International Executive Board and was a sponsor of the 2018 Power of 7 Seminar.

Michigan State

Being "in the pits," can sound pretty sweet to a number of FarmHouse men in Michigan. **Norm Veliquette** (Michigan State 63) has written, *45 in the PITS!*, a history of his 45-year career working cherries together with **Bob Gregory** (Michigan State 68) and Norm's younger twin brothers, **Gene** (Michigan State 66) and **Dean** (Michigan State 66) Veliquette. The book is complete with 200 pictures and thumbnail sketches, and records the joys and discomforts of processing cherries. Today, they are the largest tart cherry operation in North America. The book is published and available from the Elk Rapids Area Historical Society.



Alumni News



Minnesota

Dan Sandager (Minnesota 71), **John Miller** (Minnesota 70), **Peter Scheffert** (Minnesota 79) and **Mark Werner** (Minnesota 71), floating down the Colorado River this past May. These brothers have met for years after their undergraduate experience for trips like these.

Oklahoma State



Robbie Maples (Oklahoma State 10) has been named assistant director of fraternity, sorority and cooperative life in the dean of students office at Purdue University.



February 3, 2018, marked the 300th career win for **Barry Hinson** (Oklahoma State 81) as he coached the Southern Illinois men's basketball team to a 65–59 win over Valparaiso University. Hinson was the head coach at Oral Roberts and Missouri State University and has been coaching at Southern Illinois since 2012. His Salukis finished the year second in the Missouri Valley Conference.



Purdue

Eric Steiner (Purdue 98) and **David Hefty** (Purdue 96) were honored by the College of Agriculture at Purdue University with the Distinguished Agriculture Alumni Award. The award recognizes mid-career alumni who have outstanding accomplishments. David and his wife, Stacy, serve as president and CEO of Hefty Wealth Partners. Eric is the director of governmental affairs for Elanco Animal Health and serves on the FarmHouse International Executive Board.



Travis Park (Purdue 92) was honored by North Carolina State University with the Outstanding Teacher Award.

Dr. Park is an associate professor of agricultural education and is a past recipient of the NACTA Teaching Award of Merit. He is a past member of the FarmHouse International Executive Board.

Texas A&M



Tobin Redwine (Texas A&M 05) was honored by the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) with a 2018 NACTA Educator Award. Dr. Redwine is an assistant professor in the department of agricultural leadership, education, and communications at Texas A&M University. Tobin was also honored with the Jack Everly Journal Award for the paper, "Emerging Opportunities for Interdisciplinary Application of Experiential Learning among Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture."

Wyoming



Ryan McConnaughey (Wyoming 06) has been named to the board of the Wyoming Symphony Orchestra (WSO). WSO brings in nearly 70 musicians to Casper, Wyo., showcasing top musical talent to the community and the state. Ryan has also taken a new position with The Pronghorn Agency, LLC, as the manager of their Casper office. ★

IN Memoriam

The following are notices received by the International Office between March 2, 2018 and June 1, 2018.

Listed by:

NAME (INITIATION YEAR); Death 0/0/0000; Age at time of death; Resided in

ALBERTA

BRIAN H. BIRCHALL ('76); 11/26/2014; 63; Crossfield, Alberta

ARKANSAS

GEORGE T. NEWBERRY ('56); 01/26/2016; 81; Tulsa, Okla.

MARVIN L. WALL ('61); 01/30/2018; 77; McGehee, Ark.

PAUL F. WHITTINGTON ('54); 01/29/2018; 86; Charleston, Ark.

COLORADO STATE

GEORGE SNYDER ('53); 01/20/2014; 79; Rochester, Minn.

ILLINOIS

DEXTER F. NORTON ('55); 04/12/2018; 81; Fort Myers, Fla.

WILLIAM A. ROLL ('42); 04/26/2018; 96; Paris, Ill.

C. BENNETT ROODHOUSE ('51); 10/08/2017; 86; Greenville, Ill.

IOWA STATE

DAVID A. HARTWIG ('64); 01/12/2018; 73; Rochester, Minn.

JUDD LELAND ('52); 03/21/2018; 87; Lake Forest, Ill.

KANSAS STATE

DONALD L. BIGGE ('52); 02/05/2011; 77; Parker, Colo.

CALVIN L. DRAKE ('54); 04/03/2018; 84; Manhattan, Kan.

CALVIN C. HAUSMAN ('61); 03/30/2018; 78; Eudora, Kan.

JAMES R. WILSON ('67); 02/03/2018; 70; Lenexa, Kan.

MICHIGAN STATE

GARY H. BARNETT ('86); 03/27/2018; 51; Holly Springs, Ark.

NORBERT A. KANZLER ('51); 12/02/2016; 84; Chateaugay, N.Y.

MINNESOTA

DARYL D. LARSON ('71); 04/24/2018; 65; Paynesville, Minn.

MISSISSIPPI STATE

ERNEST H. FLINT ('67); 01/20/2018; 70; Kosciusko, Miss.

MISSOURI

JAMES W. FRAZIER ('79); 09/25/2017; 57; Edwardsville, Ill.

CARL G. MESSNER ('86); 03/28/2018; 51; Albany, Mo.

RICHARD F. TAYLOR ('55); 02/04/2018; 81; Fayette, Mo.

JOHN L. TOMASOVIC ('53); 01/11/2018; 83; Saint Louis, Mo.

BILLY R. WHITLOW ('52); 01/16/2018; 84; Clinton, Mo.

NEBRASKA

BURTON L. CARTER ('51); 05/01/2018; 85; Lincoln, Neb.

JACK A. DEWULF ('47); 01/27/2018; 86; Atlantic, Iowa

DARRELL W. HEISS ('49); 04/20/2018; 87; North Platte, Neb.

DONALD D. JENSEN ('47); 01/21/2018; 92; Alamo, Texas

RALPH KNOBEL ('52); 05/09/2018; 84; Fairbury, Neb.

NORTH DAKOTA STATE

DAVID H. KASPARI ('55); 03/23/2018; 85; Fargo, N.D.

OHIO STATE

ELDON C. NELSON ('57); 12/27/2017; 82; Stillwater, Okla.

ROY E. ZIMMERMAN ('41); 08/14/2017; 99; Columbus, Ohio

OREGON STATE

JAMES W. NICHOLS ('80); 05/13/2018; 58; Dundee, Ore.

PURDUE

C. LAWRENCE BEYMER ('52); 03/23/2018; 86; Terre Haute, Ind.

WARREN J. DAVIS ('58); 01/29/2018; 78; Pocatello, Idaho

THEODORE R. BRITTON ('60); 05/09/2018; 76; Sarasota, Fla.

TEXAS A&M

SHANNON T. REDWINE ('03); 01/20/2018; 33; Garland, Texas

WASHINGTON STATE

MICHAEL R. DUNCAN ('58); 03/11/2018; 78; Nampa, Idaho

A photograph of a person in a green shirt and white helmet climbing a rope structure in a forest. The person is seen from behind, looking towards another person who is also climbing. The background is filled with lush green trees and foliage. The text 'FarmHouse Photo' is overlaid on the top right of the image.

FarmHouse Photo

MAY 23-25, 2018, The 10th annual To Be and Become: Emerging Talent Retreat was held at the Heartland Center in Kansas City, Mo. At this outdoor adventure experience, future FarmHouse leaders hone their talents, grow their understanding of Fraternity and FarmHouse and spend several days with brothers from across North America.



FARMHOUSE FRATERNITY

7306 NW Tiffany Springs Parkway, Suite 310
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#myFraternity

Chase Osborne Annual Denver road trip - no better way to end a summer! Very thankful for these brothers in my life and can't imagine the last 5 years without you #myfraternity

Share your story of brotherhood.

Maybe you cycled across the country or had the most amazing road trips with your brothers. Late night pizza. Raising money for the kids. Hoops at the house. That intramural championship. Tailgates. The annual ski trips. The best man at your wedding.

You have an incredible story of brotherhood to tell. On **Wednesday, September 12** we need you to join with hundreds of thousands of fraternity men around the world to share your story on social media. Include **#myFraternity** and let's show the world the **positive impact of fraternities**.

Learn more at myFraternityLife.org

