



FARMHOUSE

OREGON STATE CHAPTER
SPRING 2022

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT: GARY MOSS OR '86



Fall 1985, I showed up at OSU for Interfraternity Council (IFC) Rush Week, already pledged to be a member at FarmHouse Fraternity. "Why FarmHouse?" "You grew up in a resort town, in Lake Tahoe, and don't know much about farming or agriculture." After an eight-hour drive from Nevada, while moving into the chapter, I was reminded immediately of the strong sense of belonging and shared values with each of the guys. Generally, FarmHouse men know how to make people feel welcome and expect to make lasting friendships. This was why FarmHouse was an easy choice.

Looking back, the most important lesson to be gained from a university experience is to discover for yourself who you are. Along the way of pursuing a degree, you experience successes and failures that demonstrate your strengths and weaknesses, ultimately forming your character. For me, FarmHouse Fraternity played a pivotal role in this process. FarmHouse, in the 1980's and today, sponsors philanthropies to serve our communities. The process of organizing these events had lasting impact for my life. I have shared often with my own children that I discovered an important lesson while at college: "In order to be truly happy, you need to serve others."

"The people you associate with today determine who you will become five years from now." The association with FarmHouse men had incredible impact. I was blessed to have incredible roommates in the Fraternity. Matt Gallant (OR 85) and his family took me in for Thanksgiving at their berry farm in Boring, Oregon. Having the quintessential collection of John Deere tractors, we pulled these amazing pieces of restored history out of the barn and paraded them around the property. Soon, I was bleeding John Deere yellow and green and learning all the JD models. I serviced equipment in diatomaceous soil that blows around like flour for Herb Vloedman (OR 85) at their family hay operation in Silver Lake. Then, I was baling grass seed straw in the Willamette Valley. I found myself working in Corvallis at a cherry orchard in the summer and going to the Oregon State Fair in Salem. I truly believe that my association with FarmHouse men in my college years was inspired by God, knowing that this "ski bum" from Lake Tahoe eventually would be operating a hay ranch in Central Oregon.

Since 2000, farming and agriculture became part of our everyday life. Karen and I moved back to her family hay ranch to help her father, who was struggling with an illness, but then soon realized we should make this our new home. On the ranch, we shared the opportunity to raise our three children with the same strong values associated with FarmHouse Fraternity. I even found myself as a leader and volunteer with Deschutes County 4-H and our local livestock club. I was able to attend state and national FFA conventions, watching my daughter receive her American Degree. In 1985, if asked, "Did you attend Oregon State University and join FarmHouse to go into agriculture?" I would say, "No way, I am going to be a fighter pilot in the Air Force!" Life is funny.

Dear FarmHouse Alumni,

You are now members of the NEW Oregon State FarmHouse Alumni Association. It is my pleasure, as president, to welcome you as new members. Since October 2021, we were officially recognized as a new nonprofit 501(c)7 organization. Essentially, it's a simple organization, with bylaws, officers and articles of incorporation. Yet, our Alumni Association offers huge potential to impact men at Oregon State University.

An essential piece of any local chapter, the Alumni Association must be intentional if a FarmHouse chapter is going to succeed. I believe that a strong and growing FarmHouse chapter is a direct reflection of a strongly connected Alumni Association. Incredibly, FarmHouse men from OSU have maintained close friendships with their fraternity brothers from the years they spent in college. Historically, OSU FH alumni have underperformed as a collectively organized group. But as we forge ahead, our alumni now have the opportunity to harness their strengths and the potential to change all of that!

As the first priority, we seek to develop the strongest possible connections amongst FarmHouse alumni. For myself, I was super-excited to hear that we now have a newly re-established chapter at OSU. Equally, I was eager to re-connect with FarmHouse brothers not seen for decades! As an alumnus, I appreciate the opportunity to be re-united with a great group of men. In the coming weeks and months, you can expect more exciting opportunities to bring FH alumni together.

Expect to hear from us. As the new Association Board of Directors, we are committed to personally reaching out to you. Our goal is to create momentum by inviting you to local events, and to talk to you personally about current FH activities and opportunities. The OSU FarmHouse Association will have its own website launching this semester. This will be the home page for every Association member. From here, you will be able to access Chapter and Association information, update your alumni account, pay Association dues, and donate to the FarmHouse Foundation.

Like never before, FarmHouse International is set up to support local chapters and individual members to become leaders on campus, in their communities, and in their chosen careers. The FarmHouse Foundation provides scholarships and grants to local chapters and individual members so that they can attend various leadership programs like the FarmHouse Leadership Institute, Power of 7, and many others. I am encouraged that FarmHouse passionately pursues the development of leaders of good moral character in our community.

As president of the Alumni Association, I am grateful for the opportunity to serve you and our new FarmHouse Chapter at OSU. The vision for all FarmHouse alumni is simply stated by our motto, "Progress Shall Mark Our Every Step". Welcome back and thank you for joining me in this valuable mission.

Fraternally,
Gary Moss OR '86
Oregon State FarmHouse Association President

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: THE GENERATIONS OF OREGON STATE FARMHOUSE

FarmHouse Fraternity has had a chapter at Oregon State University in Corvallis in both the 20th and 21st centuries. The generations of brothers date from our original chartering on December 20, 1964, to those who have been initiated into our brotherhood since our Chapter was re-chartered on October 13, 2019.

With the 1997-2019 gap in our history on campus, we want to share news with you today about several of our members. Who better to remind us of what FarmHouse means than those who led our Chapter through the years? Tom Thayer (OR 64) led organizational efforts that resulted in the original chartering of our Oregon State Chapter and served as its first president. Raymond Seal (OR 17) served as president for two years and was instrumental in re-building our re-chartered Chapter three years ago.



TOM THAYER

I had the distinct privilege of being the first Charter President of FarmHouse Fraternity at Oregon State University in the 1963-64 timeframe. It was an honor. I think that I was selected by some outstanding FarmHouse alumni that had migrated from other universities around the country with FarmHouse chapters. One name that sticks in my mind was one of my favorite professors in the animal science (dairy) department, was Professor Dick Ford (IA 54). There were many

others on the faculty and other Oregon residents that played a pivotal role in getting us started. This included acquiring a sorority house that worked perfectly for us and hiring a house mother that served us well.

From my perspective it has been somewhat heartbreaking to learn of the trials and tribulations that the chapter has gone through over the years. My thanks to those that have stepped up to re-charter and start the process all over again.

As for me personally, I graduated in 1964. You may remember that the Vietnam War was going hot and heavy in those years, and I already had my draft notice, scheduled physical, and so forth, and knew that as soon as I graduated, I would be drafted and marching in the rice patties of Vietnam.

With time to select a better alternative to being drafted, I was accepted into the U.S. Navy Flight Training Program in Pensacola. So, two weeks after graduating, I had driven across the country and started flight training. Interestingly, the first time that I had ever been in a plane, let alone fly in one, was when the Navy flew me from Corvallis to Seattle for my physical, swearing in, and picking up my orders to Pensacola.

The U.S. Navy Flight Training is the best in the world. It included 24 carrier landings, all on the USS Lexington in training on smooth seas. In the fleet, I flew the Lockheed P-3 Orion, a submarine hunter aircraft based in Jacksonville, Florida, and deployed to the Mediterranean to the South China Sea.

Not being a Naval Academy graduate, I chose to take my 2,200 hours of flight time and leave the Navy in pursuit of a civilian career, which I did for nearly 33 years with Delta Air Lines, flying numerous aircraft and retiring as a captain on the Boeing 777, a magnificent aircraft.

As for residence, since I graduated from Oregon State, I have been a Florida resident. It has been a great place to be and to be involved over the years in numerous organizations, almost always in a leadership role. I just cannot help myself.

I will be back in Corvallis for a reunion one of these days and will look for the latest rendition of Oregon FarmHouse. Good Luck!



RAYMOND SEAL

For those that I haven't had the pleasure of meeting, here is a little about myself. I grew up in Joseph, Oregon, where my mom's side of the family has lived for generations. My dad is from Scio, so I am no stranger to the Willamette Valley either. I was heavily involved with FFA in high school which led me to study Crop and Soil Science while at Oregon State.

Since graduating in 2020 (no thanks to COVID!), I have begun my career as an Sales Agronomist with Marion Ag

Service in St. Paul, Oregon. I get the pleasure of working mainly with our region's hop, hazelnut, and grass seed growers. My wife and I currently live in McMinnville, Oregon, with our dog Filbert. I am still involved with FarmHouse by serving as the vice president of our Association.

I originally had no intention of joining a fraternity when I began at OSU. However, I was dissuaded of my assumptions by the FH brother that came to Corvallis to start the process of forming a colony. I was quickly convinced that I wanted to dive headfirst into this organization.

There were initially three of us that began meeting in the smallest conference room OSU had to offer! I took the position of president our first year and we began our efforts of building a new chapter. Our recruiting efforts were tedious and slow for that first year, so I had failed in my job of finding the next president! However, I still had plenty of time at OSU, so I doubled down on a second term of office. I was fortunate enough to have some of the best brothers a founding president could have asked for and by the end of our

LETTER FROM FOUNDATION COUNCIL CHAIR, DUANE GORANSON OR '90

The last year of activity should indicate the renewed level of commitment your Association board has regarding communication. There are new websites, monthly board meetings, new bylaws, social gatherings—both chapter and alumni, e-mails, new committees, increased social media engagement, postcards, and newsletters. We know you are thirsty for it and we are striving to make this communication richer, easier, and more frequent than it has been before.

But with our previous lapse in engagement came a disconnect with your contact information. We want to connect with you via mail, e-mail, and phone. Our path as an Association is to abandon our antiquated use of multiple Excel spreadsheets, mailing lists, and notebooks and enter the digital age of cloud database management. This is also the goal of FarmHouse International, and we are partnering with them to transition to MyHerdBook.com as our shared repository for alumni contact information. Please take a few minutes to update your information through the database, even if you recently gave it to a board or committee member.

With our new structure comes a renewed interest in mentoring and growing new members as well as recruiting new ones. This looks like scholarships, grants, seminars, retreats, Conclave, and some other development events led by FarmHouse International. These costs will be funded by our tax-friendly Foundation Council Accounts. Gary Moss and I will be leading an effort to reach out to our OSU alumni to both ask for annual membership dues and also monthly recurring gifts that will support these causes. To beat me to the punch, feel free to contact me at 503-705-8797 or dgoranson@hotmail.com for more information and links. Now is the time to keep OSU FarmHouse headed in the right direction.



CALL FOR NEW MEMBERS FROM CHAPTER PRESIDENT, JD STABLES

As a legacy member, I can't say enough about how fulfilling it was to be elected president of FarmHouse Fraternity at Oregon State and to be given the opportunity to lead the Chapter in the direction we are planning. Growing up, working on my parents' farm while also being an overly active 4-H and FFA member, I know of the values and the lessons that agrarian life can teach. Those same lessons that I learned growing up are re-instilled every day as a member of FarmHouse Fraternity. Faith, Ambition, Honesty, and Service to others are all values taught to me growing up and have continued to be instilled in me through my involvement in FarmHouse Fraternity.

As many of you know, the COVID-19 pandemic hit our Chapter hard. Our usual recruitment techniques were no longer effective, and our numbers dwindled as members lost buy-in or graduated.

Even though the pandemic weakened us, the other members in our Chapter and I will no longer be blaming the pandemic for our issues and are looking toward the future by getting more involved on campus and the surrounding communities. We plan to increase our philanthropic efforts and our involvement with organizations on- and off-campus. We want to create a significant impact no matter the size of our membership.

Still, at the end of the day, our membership numbers do affect our ability to reach our surrounding community, which is where you, the alumni, come into play. I and the rest of our Chapter would love your recruitment/event ideas, financial support, or even a name of a current or future OSU student that you think would be a good fit for FarmHouse. The chapter members and I would greatly appreciate any level of support!

I'd love to set aside time to meet with all of you. In my opinion, the history of our organization is what will drive the future.

Fraternally,
JD Stables
OSU FarmHouse Fraternity Chapter President
stablesj@oregonstate.edu - (503) 662-6636

second year we had grown from three to 18 members and officially re-charted FarmHouse at Oregon State!

I can't believe the experiences I had and the friends I made during those few years. I am proud to get to say I was once a part of the chapter that now resides at OSU. I have deeply enjoyed learning the history of FarmHouse at OSU and getting to know those who came before me.

While I can never be grateful enough for my brothers that put up with the two years of chaos that was my time as president, I also am amazed by what FarmHouse meant and still means to those from the original chapter. It really showed the true colors of FarmHouse when dozens of alumni, who have waited for 20 years with no local chapter to support, came out of the woodwork to lend their time, financial support, and knowledge to a bunch of college kids. You didn't know any of us, but we carried the FarmHouse name and without question you supported us. That is why I believe our chapter will continue to grow and succeed.

It is my hope to provide that same helping hand that was provided to us as our new era of FarmHouse men move forward.

PAST EVENTS

CHAPTER WINTERHAWKS GAME

This winter, the Association sponsored a trip for our chapter to an event of their choice. The chapter members excitedly chose an overnight trip to watch one of Oregon's few professional sports teams compete on their home court in Portland! The chapter caught one of the most exciting matches of the season. The Winterhawks went into overtime tied 4-4 against the Victoria Royals. Unfortunately, the home team lost 5-4, but as Chapter President John "JD" Stables (OR 19) put it, "It was an exciting game and we got our money's worth." The chapter continued their outing by grabbing dinner at the Metropolitan Tavern Restaurant atop the Hotel Eastland. According to one of the brothers, "We stuck out like a sore thumb in that fancy restaurant. We were all wearing jeans [after attending the ice hockey match] and most of the other people were wearing slacks and jackets. JD was even wearing his Crocs. Apparently none of us know how to order at a nice place because we all got burgers, except for Tristan Cole (OR 18) who was asking if he was allowed to order two plates of filet mignon." The guys rounded out the evening with a late-night ice cream run before ending at their hotel. The chapter leadership sent out thank you cards to all the alumni who donated to the trip. Gage Pittman (OR 18), outgoing chapter president, said, "It really was a great

trip. It was a good morale boost after our time dealing with virtual meetings and restricted recruiting efforts."

MARY'S PEAK

In October, alumni and chapter members met atop Mary's Peak outside of Corvallis for a good old-fashioned BBQ. The sun was shining and it was one of the last few, rare October days in the Willamette Valley with comfortable high temps and no rain. To the surprise of both alumni and chapter members alike, going to Mary's Peak is not a new endeavor for our chapter. Some alumni may remember trips to Mary's Peak in their college days. The chapter members were excited to hear that they have coincidentally picked up the same habit as a way of bonding as a chapter. With a few guys, some camp chairs, and a tailgate BBQ, OSU FH brothers got to catch up and enjoy the view!



PORTLAND-AREA GET TOGETHER

Back in August, a few of our alumni got together for dinner in Tigard. There were familiar faces for some and new introductions for others. Amongst the chaos of life it was wonderful to spend some of it with fellow FarmHouse brothers. Everyone stayed well over two hours and chatted away the evening.

FOUNDERS' DAY

Please join us Sunday, April 23rd at McMenamin's Edgefield in Troutdale, OR at 11:00 a.m!

The Oregon State FarmHouse Alumni Association will be hosting our annual Founders' Day. We are excited to finally gather and share the progress that has been made to further our wonderful organization this past year.

The event will consist of a brief business meeting, lunch and social time.

Please scan the QR code to register!



SHARE YOUR NEWS

Have you recently married? Has your family recently had or adopted a child? Maybe you changed careers, received a promotion, received an award at work or were recognized in your community?

We want to know about it!

Submit your news or new contact information for our next issue of Pearls & Rubies and future Association Newsletters by going to this website:

bit.ly/SubmitFHnews

PAY YOUR ASSOCIATION DUES:



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<<Address Line 1>> <<Address Line 2>>
<<City>>, <<State>> <<zip code>>