



FARMHOUSE



ILLINOIS CHAPTER

Fall 2022

A LETTER FROM YOUR ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT



Illinois FarmHouse Brothers,

Rest assured...we remain the Fraternity you know and remember.

Since FarmHouse Fraternity at the University of Illinois was founded 108 years ago, many things have changed in our world: We landed a man on the moon, tractors can drive themselves, and we

have cameras on our phones. Another thing that I think we can agree on is that college-age men have changed and are distinctly different than they were 100...50...or even 10 years ago and that's not a bad thing. Those differences help us continue to move forward, they help us gain new, unique perspectives, and they help us succeed inside and outside the classroom. Just like the world has changed over the years, I'm sure each of you reading this newsletter isn't the same person that walked through the doors at 809.

Even as the world changes around us, **some things haven't and won't change.** For FarmHouse Fraternity at the University of Illinois, we refuse to change our unwavering commitment to recruit and build men that represent the Object of our Fraternity...

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 fellow men and to the world.

Over the past several years, due to those high standards for membership, we have had huge successes. FarmHouse at Illinois was chosen as Chapter of the Year for **five consecutive years** and they have consistently been in top tier for fraternity GPAs for **three straight years**. The Chapter has a strong and positive reputation at both

the campus and college level.

Since we have not lowered our standards, we will continue to choose quality over quantity when it comes to selecting members. Chapter membership numbers are lower than we'd like. Today, we have 27 high character men that live The Object and we have a Chapter that will continue to push through any challenges that might arise. I ask that you join us today to help find, recruit, and build men for our membership that will uphold the values of FarmHouse for years to come.

Fraternally,

Bruce Frank
President, Illinois FarmHouse Association
Email: ILFHAssociation@gmail.com

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: ETHAN LUTH (ILLINOIS 99)

Ethan grew up in Newman, Illinois on a grain operation. From a very young age, he was always involved on the farm in some capacity, with a deeply rooted passion for the business of agriculture. Nearing high school graduation, he had the goal of going back to the farm when choosing a career. However, his father, Gary, encouraged him to attend college and gain broader perspectives before coming back home to farm. When looking at colleges and fraternities the choice was easy with his father being an alum of both. When he looks back on his time at FarmHouse he was grateful for the memories and network he created there. FarmHouse made the transition from his small town to a large university easy. He had fond memories of serving as the cook at Football Block, going on Walkout to the University of Missouri, and serving as the Vice President of Recruitment for the chapter. His time at the university and FarmHouse helped him earn opportunities like internships at AgriGold and Dow, as well as, a semester long coop with Aventis.

Story continued on next page...

LETTER FROM CHAPTER PRESIDENT



Dear Illinois Alumnus,

The past year has been quite successful at the Illinois Chapter. Last spring FarmHouse was recognized at the Greek Oscars ceremony hosted by the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs. At this ceremony, we received first

place awards in the areas of Philanthropy, Scholarship, and Member Development. After receiving these awards, we were named the Interfraternity Council Chapter of the Year. This is the fifth consecutive year that we have held this title and to my knowledge no other chapter has held the title for this long. Along with our chapter achievements, we also had several individual members recognized. Karson Ewerks and I received the 1872 Legacy of Leadership Award and Ryker Ewing received an IFC Scholarship. Travis Wilke was recognized as the New Member of the Year, Lupe Zamora won the Living You Values Award, and last but not least Nick Clemens was named the IFC Greek Man of the Year. While we have been very successful this past year and the past 5 years at the Greek Oscars, I have made it my goal as president to not become stagnant. At our Executive Board planning meeting this week, we will be discussing plans to improve our Philanthropy, Alumni, and Chapter events to get more involvement and continue to improve.

It is hard to believe that the summer is already over, but all of the guys seem excited to move back to 809. August 17th is move in day for the new members. Currently, we have nine in-house new members, but we will continue to recruit through the fourth week of classes. Since the start of the pandemic, Greek life as a whole has struggled with recruitment. It has been at the forefront of every conversation both on campus through IFC and at the International level. With a goal set of ten additional members in the fall, we hope to achieve that or even more. If you have any potential new member referrals please get them in contact with our VP of Recruitment, Patrick Williams or myself. Our emails are pww4@illinois.edu and rileypb2@illinois.edu respectively.

Fraternally,

Riley Bergmann
President, Illinois FarmHouse Chapter
Email: rileypb2@illinois.edu

After expanding his horizons through experiences at the University of Illinois and FarmHouse, Ethan decided to pursue a career off the farm after graduation. He started his career at GROWMARK where he worked in agronomy and sales roles for five years. While working he maintained those relationships he had at Aventis. This served him well after they were acquired by Bayer as he was recruited to move into a Sales Rep role with the company in Champaign, Illinois. From there his career took off as he moved into roles across the country. First taking him to Kansas City to develop marketing plans for Bayer's fungicide and herbicide



product lines in the Midwest, then to Raleigh, North Carolina as a product manager for Bayer's corn and soybean seed treatment business. Next, Ethan gained the opportunity to work abroad in Germany in a global position for the company. Here he managed Bayer's corn seed treatment business worldwide. Once Bayer acquired Monsanto in 2018, Ethan had the unique opportunity to help transition the two companies' together into one, including designing new operating models and structure in the Commercial business. Now, Ethan manages the sales team for Bayer's vegetable seed division in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico, including the Seminis and DeRuiter brands.

Today, he lives in the St. Louis area with his wife and three daughters. He enjoys spending his time running to various events whether that be dance, soccer, or gymnastics for each of his daughters. Even though he has been away from the farm for many years now he still remains active in some way whether it be returning for harvest when he can, setting up precision technology, or helping on the business side. It has been enjoyable watching his daughters love the farm just as much as he has through the years. Recently, Ethan was awarded the Outstanding Young Alumni Award for the College of ACES for his accomplishments inside and outside of his career. When asked about advice he would give to our current membership he said to relish your time in college because it goes by fast. Take advantage of every opportunity whether it be one to grow your network or a new leadership role, you won't regret it.



CONSIDER A GIFT OF GRAIN TO HELP THE ILLINOIS CHAPTER OF FARMHOUSE!



“Like many of my brothers, FarmHouse Fraternity played a big part in who I am today. It started when I went with my FarmHouse father to homecoming while I was in HS. I was impressed by the men that were there and many of their “stations in life”. Looking back, I may not have survived my first semester at the “Big U” had I been in a dorm. The help, advice, and encouragement helped me to not only survive, but thrive. From developing good study habits to learning time management and leadership skills, FarmHouse helped me to succeed. I also learned about working with and leading others with all their various attitudes, opinions, and personalities while I served as both External VP (Rush Chair) as well as President....skills I did not realize I was developing at the time but make use of to this day. Besides these life

skills, I also have brothers who have remained lifelong friends. Lifelong friends who I consult on everything from business strategies to the latest trends in ag... or sometimes just to “shoot the bull”. This brotherhood is not something that could have been developed living in a dorm or apartment. Those reasons are why my brother, brother-in-law, and son also became FarmHouse men.

Recently, I felt a calling to pay it forward by contributing to the Illinois FarmHouse Building Fund. It has been apparent for several, if not many years, that the fraternity house needed some upgrades to help entice young men to join the U of I FarmHouse family. Previous attempts have been made and abandoned, but I believe in the current Illinois FarmHouse Board of Directors and their leadership to complete a major upgrade to 809. A chapter house we can be proud of for decades to come. I have come to believe that the time is NOW to move forward. After deciding to contribute to the Illinois FarmHouse Fraternity Building fund, I determined it was most advantageous for me to contribute grain, rather than cash due to tax laws. By gifting grain, I was essentially able to contribute more, due to the tax treatment of such gifts. I’d challenge my FarmHouse farming brothers to consider doing the same.”

- **Jim Niewold** (Illinois 74)

For more details, reach out to Bruce Frank at (515) 782-9123 or ILFHAssociation@gmail.com



Bottom right: Four-generations of Niewold men and three-generations of FarmHouse men. Father, Wayne (Illinois 50), Jim (Illinois 74), his son Greg (Illinois 02) and two potential members (Luke and Henry Niewold).

Top left: Jim Niewold (Illinois 74) and his wife Robin.

SENIOR HIGHLIGHTS



Name: Seth Duhamell

Hometown: Mattoon, Ill.

Major: Animal Sciences

Plans after Graduation: Looking for Animal Keeper position in a Zoo setting

Best FH Memory: Grilling at Tailgates

Senior Advice: College only happens once, so be sure to enjoy it. Join clubs, make connections, step outside your comfort zone a bit because after the four years is up, you don't want to look back and regret the things you didn't do.



Name: Tristan Boehm

Hometown: Windsor, Ill.

Major: Animal Sciences

Post Graduation Plans: Working an apprenticeship with IBEW

Best FH Memory: Chapter Ski Trip

Senior Advice: Enjoy it while you can, it'll be over before you know it.



Name: Andrew Williams

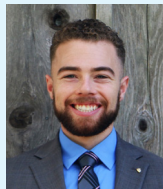
Hometown: Ellsworth, Ill.

Major: Agricultural and Consumer Economics

Post Graduation Plans: Since graduation I have returned to the farm and farming full time with my father.

Best FH Memory: It has got to be going on the Colorado ski trips. I am a big outdoors person and being able to share that and teach others how to ski and then skiing with other guys that loved to ski was always a great time.

Senior Advice: The best advice I can give any senior or anyone is to soak in every moment, I take a step back during different events and things that go on around campus and just admire it and soak it in. Once you get your diploma and leave campus your world will change drastically.



Name: Cody Gaffner

Hometown: Greenville, Ill.

Major: Agricultural Engineering

Post Graduation Plans: Product Engineer at Caterpillar in Re-manufacturing

Best FH Memory: Tailgating with the brothers at football games

Senior Advice: Enjoy college with your brothers and live life to the fullest!



Name: Ian Legner

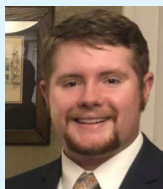
Hometown: Princeton, Ill.

Major: Agricultural and Consumer Economics

Post Graduation Plans: Working towards my certifications to become a financial planner.

Best FH Memory: Dressing up for Monday night chapter and listening/talking to Pat.

Senior Advice: Make the most of your time at the house and try to experience everything you possibly can. You don't actually realize how fast it goes by. One day you're moving in and the next you're saying a short goodbye.



Name: Colton Starwalt

Hometown: Teutopolis, Ill.

Post Graduation Plans: Working for Mont Eagle Mills in Oblong, Ill.

Best FH Memory: Random ideas with fellow seniors.

Senior Advice: To be as genuine as possible. For better or worse, it'll show true friends and alliances very early without the wonder of true intentions.



Name: Jacob Felsman

Hometown: Pesotum, Ill.

Major: Crop Sciences

Post Graduation Plans: After completing my bachelor's at UIUC, I will attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison to pursue a master's degree in Agronomy, specializing in Crop Protection-Weed Science.

Best FH memory: Living in the house over the summer of 2021 (besides living amongst the mess of the porch construction). I had an internship in the Champaign area and was living with a small group of great guys at 809. We spent many evenings and nights working on a few room renovations, but many more were spent at the Illini Inn.



Name: Adam Yoder

Hometown: Edinburg, Ill.

Major: Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences

Post Graduation Plans: Work as a Rangeland Technician at a restored grassland

Best FH Memory: Walking through an empty campus at night with my pledge brothers during locations practical

Senior Advice: Most regrets come as a result of overthinking, I almost never regret decisions made from early instincts. Think through problems when you have to and listen to your gut when you can.



Name: Adrian Espinoza

Hometown: Mendota, Ill.

Major: Molecular and Cellular Biology

Post Graduation Plans: Currently taking a gap year and working as a pharmacy technician at CVS and improving my resume to be able to apply to medical school and hopefully enrolling in the fall of 2024.

Best FH Memory: Football tailgates. Being able to take a break from school, work, and any other responsibilities and just be able to hang out with all the guys in the house and have a great time.

Senior Advice: Attend as much house, major, and sporting related events as possible and just go meet people. Make connections and friends that will help you improve in your studies, career, and yourself.



Name: Andrew Malcomson

Hometown: Rushville, Ill.

Major: Crop Sciences

Post Graduation Plans: To continue my education at the University of Wisconsin-Madison for a Master's Degree in Agronomy.

Best FH Memory: Some of my favorite FarmHouse memories are from attending football and basketball games with my brothers.

Senior Advice: Enjoy the small moments spent with your fraternity brothers and friends during your time as an undergrad. Enjoy every second because it flies by.



Name: Seth Mitchell

Hometown: Olney, Ill.

Major: Double major in Agricultural and Consumer Economics and Animal Science

Post Graduation Plans: After graduation, I accepted a Government Relations Internship with CropLife America in Washington DC. I plan to attend law school and become an agricultural attorney.

Best FH memory: The ski trip to Denver and spending quality time with the guys cooking and sitting around the fire at the resort. The trap shoot brotherhood was a lot of fun as well.

Senior Advice: Make a college bucket list. Your time in FarmHouse flies by. Writing down your goals for your chapter, brotherhood, and university experience will serve as a reminder that holds you accountable to accomplishing them.



Name: Jeffrey Delmore

Hometown: Machesney Park, Ill.

Major: Animal Sciences,

Post Graduation Plans: Small animal veterinarian

Best FH Memory: I really enjoyed all of the times we went floating in the river with the new members

Senior Advice: I would say enjoy the little things and cherish the times you are with those that care about you.



Name: Nicholas Clemens

Hometown: Dixon, Ill.

Major: Recreation, Sports, and Tourism

Post Graduation Plans: Working in baseball sales and hospitality with the Gateway Grizzlies

Best FH Memory: The little things honestly. Doing homework in the living room while some of the other guys play video games or watch football. Late night food runs or just hanging out in the 40 and talking to other members. Brotherhoods are the second thing because they were always a good time with everyone being together playing volleyball or bowling or whatever else is going on.

Senior Advice: Cherish every single moment. Time really does fly when you are there plus there is so much going on it is easy to get distracted. Always be willing to go out or see friends as long as you have your other responsibilities done.



Name: Mitchell Clodfelter

Hometown: Sterling, Ill.

Major: Agricultural and Consumer Economics

Post Graduation Plans: Merchandiser for ADM in Mexico, Missouri

Best FH Memory: Football games with alumni and brothers.

Senior Advice: Expose yourself to as much as possible while you're in college.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Farm House Celebrates 25th Anniversary



When Farm House fraternity observed its 25th anniversary Friday, Dean and Mrs. H. P. Rusk were among honored guests. The Rusks are pictured to the extreme left as they chatted with fraternity members. An informal smoker at the chapter was followed by a dinner and dance at the Urbana Country club. With the Rusks, left to right are: Vernice Sherman, Sandwich, College of Agriculture junior; and Al Welbourne, Barry, agriculture junior.

Founder Henry P. Rusk and his wife meet with Vernice Sherman and Al Melbourne (Illinois 39) during the 25th Anniversary Celebration in 1939.

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

If you are not receiving updates please send contact info to:

ILFHAssociation@gmail.com

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