



Brothers in Arms

Official Publication of Alpha Chapter-FarmHouse Fraternity
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Words from the Association President

An FH outlook from an alumnus' perspective

Hello to every member of the Missouri FarmHouse family! I hope this newsletter finds you and your families doing well. The strong finish to the spring semester of 2006 for the chapter allowed

the Men of FarmHouse to have a great start for the 2006-2007 school year.

The Association, with some member's assistance, did some significant house clean up

Master Builder Award Bestowed

Coach Busch receives honor
On top of attending over 1100 chapter meetings and teaching for over fifty years, "Coach" Bill Busch is achieving far more than he imagined. At the 2006 Conclave of FarmHouse International Fraternity, Coach was given the most prestigious award bestowed upon any FarmHouse man, *Master Builder*. He is a deserving individual considering his background. Coach has always taught aquatic courses like sailing, scuba, and swimming. He first taught at the University of Indiana before moving to the University of Missouri where he has remained active ever since. Coach says, "I haven't had anyone tell me I taught their granddad yet, but I

expect it any day now," and he may be right. He is a well decorated man with some of his achievements being inducted into four separate honorary societies/fraternities and has won the *Pillar of Excellence Award* 12 years straight. Also, he has served for over 38 years either as the house dad and chapter advisor. Coach Busch is the first Missouri FarmHouse man to win this award since 1964. In fact, he is the tenth individual to receive such an accomplishment, although his humble character would not allow you to know that he'd even won. Those that wrote letters of recommendation for Coach wrote of what so many have experienced in their years as FarmHouse men.

OCTOBER 21st--Homecoming Brunch at Chapter House--Please RSVP by October 14th to MizzouFarmHouse@gmail.com or to 507 Kentucky.

and improvement items over the summer. We painted portions of the basement, laid new carpet in the formal rooms, cleaned up the annex, added a few parking spots on the west side of the house, revamped the internet system and painted all the doors in the house. The house looked fantastic at the end of the summer and I'm pleased to report that it still looks wonderful. Seeing the brand new dorms across the street from 507 Kentucky reaffirms the fact that we must continue to improve our property and the amenities that it provides if we expect parents to allow their sons to live within our walls.

The Missouri FarmHouse Association and Chapter will be hosting a pre-game brunch at the chapter house on Homecoming Saturday (October 21st). The time will be announced once the game time has been determined. Please do your best to stop in, sign some

paddles, take a house tour and have a great meal. Active chapter members will be there to serve the meal as well as hear old stories and share new. Also, there have been discussions to organize alumni chapters in the Kansas City, St. Louis, and Columbia areas. I made initial contacts with a few folks to head these efforts up and now we just need to get the ball rolling. If you're interested in joining that fun, please stay tuned for future details. Lastly, **RUSH is more important now than ever.** We desperately need the help of our alumni. Please send the chapter names of any men that you think would be a great person to carry the Missouri FarmHouse chapter forward for another 101 years.

I hope to see you at a football game! Go Tigers! 5-0!!!

Lance A. Burditt
1994 Initiate
Association President

Actives Offer, Alumni Accept

Over the past few months the active chapter has been brainstorming ideas on how to make our alumni relations more efficient for all. Well, gentlemen, here's what we propose. Currently this fall 2006, we are beginning a new program; an alumni mentoring program. Due to it's potential size, the main focus will be

with our current pledge class. Here's what it has to offer. The mentors are introduced to an alumnus mentor who has a similar career field as the new member he will be mentoring. Time should not be a huge issue with this proposal either because it is what you put into it. Maybe two or three phone calls and

two visits a semester are all that is recommended. It helps the younger guys make connections with someone that has lived a little bit after FH and it allows them to focus a little more on their future. After the first semester and initiation, the mentors and the newly activated member are on their own accord to meet. If you would like to be

considered in the future for this opportunity, then please let us know. Or if you have any other ideas that you would like to participate in, then please inform us.



Griffith Resigns as Executive Director



Photo courtesy of FarmHouse International website

What's the next step for FarmHouse International? Will a Mizzou alum fill the opening?

After 9 ½ years as Executive Director of FarmHouse Fraternity, Inc., Jim Griffith, CAE (Missouri '91), will be resigning to pursue new career opportunities. He's served on the FarmHouse International professional staff since 1995.

"I would like to thank Jim Griffith for his 11 years of service on the fraternity staff," said FarmHouse International President

Bryce Freeman. "Jim's bold vision, professional journalism background, careful financial control, and strong leadership have moved the fraternity forward over the near-decade he has served in the role."

Highlights of Griffith's tenure have included:

- More than a tripling of the assets of the 501(c)(7) non-profit from 1997-2006, despite no chapter dues increase from 1994-2004 and downward trend in membership that the men's fraternity system faced during that period;
- Dramatic improvements and earned national recognition as editor of the Pearls & Rubies alumni magazine;
- Coordinated all aspects of the Fraternity's 100th Anniversary Celebration and festivities, with a culminating event drawing 30 percent more

attendees than any past event on record;

- Quadrupled size of FarmHouse Leadership Academy, while coordinating the planning and program development of the 4-day fully funded leadership program for incoming officers;

- Conclave attendance averaged a 51 percent increase from 1998-2006, compared to the two Conclaves prior;

- Led the creation of a comprehensive standards/re-certification program (Chapter Award of Excellence) that has significantly improved strength and operations of our chapters.

Griffith has served in many leadership capacities while with FarmHouse, including service on the College Fraternity Editors Association Board of Directors (President in 2001-02); on the FRMT

Board, Center for Study of the College Fraternity Board, and on the Kansas City Society of Association Executives Board of Directors (current Vice President).

"We have been lucky to have Jim on staff for longer than most executives serve in their roles, and we're appreciative that his announcement provides us the maximum time to search for new leadership, skills, and vision," said Freeman.

Griffith was only the fourth Executive Director in the Fraternity's history. The search for his successor begins immediately. Qualified applicants are encouraged to apply by November 1, 2006. The Fraternity hopes to fill the position by December.

A job description is online at http://www.farmhouse.org/pdf/exec_director.pdf.

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Alumni Success Across America

Dr. Bryan Garton (MO 1982)

Brother Garton has been extremely busy over the past few months with his recent publications and awards for research in agricultural education. Announced on the Mizzou Ag Ed website, aged.missouri.edu, in May & June 2006 respectively, Dr. Garton shared the following accomplishments with other MU community members. He and another PhD graduate received Authors of the Year honors from the *Journal of Agricultural Education* at the 2006 Conference of the American Association for Agricultural Education. The article was titled *Modeling Higher Order Thinking: The Alignment Between Objectives, Classroom Discourse, and Assessment* and was in Volume 46, Issue 2 of the Journal. Also, Brother Garton and two other PhD graduates received the E. B. Knight Journal Award at the 2006 North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture Conference held in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. They received the recognition for their article titled *University Admission Criteria and Learning Style: Predictors of Academic Success?* The article was published in Volume 49, Issue 2 of the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture Journal. Congratulations on your achievements, Dr. Garton!

Alan Weber (MO 1988)

On March 1, 2006 the National Biodiesel Board (NBB) opened its second office in Washington, DC. The NBB is a not-for-profit national trade association that represents the biodiesel industry in the U.S. Brother Alan Weber is serving as a transition team member for NBB and he is also working from the Washington location. Alan is a founding partner of MARC-IV, a consulting company that specializes in the development of industrial products from agricultural resources. Active with biodiesel commercialization activities since 1991, he will provide economic & governmental affairs support for NBB's DC office until March 2007. Alan indicated he is always happy to see FH alumni and to contact him at aweber@marciv.com if you happen to be in DC. Way to go, Alan!

Congratulations to the following Alumni who recently tied the Knot!

Joe Gauer (MO 2003) & Wife
John Scott (MO 2001) & Wife
Hunter Abbey (MO 2002) & Wife

Builder of Men Creed

He best builds lives
of other men
Who starts from within
so that when
the job's all done
the Judge will say,
'A master Builder
passed this way.'

Our deepest sympathies...

Albert Russell (Russ) Harriman, Jr., 70, of Ashland, MO, formerly of Malta Bend, MO, died August 8, 2006, at Poudre Valley Hospital in Fort Collins, CO. He was a graduate of Slater High School and Mizzou where he was a member of FarmHouse (Initiated 1955). He was a member of Malta Bend United Methodist Church, National Cattlemen's Association, had served as executive secretary for the Mo. Cattleman's Association and had served as CEO for the Texas Longhorn Breeders Association of America. He was a U.S. Air Force veteran serving from 1959 and 1962 and was a lifetime member of Ashland V.F.W. Post. We send our deepest sympathies and prayers to his family and friends.

"Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers--not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be;" -1 Peter 5:2

Call for alumni representation at International level

Coming December, there will be two educational leadership consultant positions filled for FarmHouse International. The educational leadership consultant is charged with using independent judgment and works without immediate supervision to provide consultation, support and advice to local FarmHouse chapters and advisors throughout North America and is responsible for affecting the internal and external growth of the organization. The educational leadership consultant conducts educational programs, chapter management assessments and provides administrative assistance. If interested email by October 4th your cover letter, resume and name/phone/email of 3 references to:

Jim Griffith, Executive Director
FarmHouse Fraternity, Inc.
11020 NW Ambassador Drive, #330
Kansas City, MO 64153
Jim@FarmHouse.org
Fax 816-891-0838

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From the President's Desk

Contact information:
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816.678.9880



Greetings Alumni

As the Fall 2006 semester has quickly become upon our Chapter, the Men of FarmHouse have been busy continuing efforts to improve FarmHouse. As most of you know, we here at 507 Kentucky have been in a constant state of change over the last couple semesters. Many rigorous goals have been set and attained; however there is always room for improvement. Through hard work and determination I feel as though we have taken the right steps toward success not only through our words, but also most importantly through our actions.

With the absence of Homecoming this semester, the popular opinion expressed to the Chapter was that we would become complacent, and in the end, fully regret our decision to not participate. I am extremely happy to inform you that the decision to not participate in Homecoming has been quite possibly one of the best decisions we, as a chapter, have made in the last couple years. The primary goal for this semester was to focus on strengthening our Chapter inwardly, as opposed to focusing efforts externally. With this in mind, we have been making great strides already.

Probably one of the most noticeable changes to FarmHouse has been the re-creation of our New Member Education Program. With countless hours of help from Association President, Lance Burditt, we have designed and created a pledge program in which future members of FarmHouse will have a more positive building experience. Our big brother program has also improved and taken full form. Active members are constantly helping new members and seeing that they learn the essentials of a FarmHouse man. The active chapter's positive attitude shows the strength of support of the new member education program and the positive benefits it brings to the house. These positive changes must progress, year after year, as we continuously strive to improve new member education.

Coming off of a great semester academically,

Scholarship has definitely taken precedence in the house. Men have a great sense of pride in academics and I look forward to another positive academic semester. Currently we are in the process of updating our past test files and making them available electronically. We feel this will make them much more accessible as well as easier to maintain. Thanks to the Association and Foundation, active and new members now compete for awards and scholarships for performing well in the classroom. Accountability for achieving great grades poses high importance and the men of FarmHouse are again seeking to be the best in this area.

As FarmHouse men we have "promised to give service to our fellowmen and to the world." From the beginning, philanthropy and service have been held as extremely important in our chapter. FarmHouse has been involved in several service projects over the past semesters including building a playground for a local Columbian, and visiting with the kids of Coyote Hill Christian Children's Home. Currently we have been in the process of creating an additional philanthropy to accompany our current beneficiary, Coyote Hill. Details and plans are underway and I encourage you to look for more details in the near future.

While many of our goals have been attained lately, one issue that continues to plague FarmHouse the last couple of semesters is RUSH. As the rush process for spring has become fully underway, we realize that Rush can no longer be on the shoulders of one or two men, nor can it solely be placed upon Brothers currently living in the house. Rush is an entire Fraternity effort; we have all heard this before. If there is one area that I would encourage you as alumni to become involved in, it is definitely recruitment. I challenge each of you to recruit a portion of these next classes of FarmHouse men. Each one of us has a personal responsibility to continue the great legacy of our Fraternity here at Mizzou.

As always Alumni input is always welcomed and necessary. Please feel free to contact myself or other executive officers if you have any questions, comments, or support. I hope this letter finds you well as another successful school year has begun.

Fraternally,

Kyle Richter