



FarmHouse Focus

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From the Desk of the President

Kenny Houston



Greetings to the alumni of our chapter and their families. We wanted to get out a short newsletter to

let you know how things are going at the house.

This semester has been a positive one, with 12 new members pledging this Fall, greatly adding to our small numbers as of late. They all are good men, and have been a great asset to the house.

This past year we have had the opportunity to go on a few road trips, including movie outings and dinners out with the entire chapter. It has really helped our brotherhood, and I see a renewed interest in the house.

As you can see from the picture to the right here, we have done some work on the house. We painted the dining room FarmHouse green and, thanks to Martin Wilson (MS '68) we have working air conditioners in the house.

As we discussed at the Association meeting, several of our air conditioner units had died. Mr. Wilson stepped up and helped to purchase and repair all of the units in the house, so we were able to make it though the hot summer in comfort. However, the great cost of this repair means that we are asking if you

can help to send money our way to reimburse him it would be greatly appreciated. In you can help, please send checks to Dr. Carpenter with a note detailing it is for the reimbursement of Mr. Wilson.

We also have several projects we are also going to have to address down the way, including a new roof, minor repairs in the bathroom and a new water heater. However, with increased numbers in the house, and its resulting rent to the Association, I am hopeful that we will be on a better fiscal foot soon to be able to address these concerns. We have been fortunate that with a house that is well over 15 years old, we have not had any more issues than what we have to deal with now.

School is almost over here, so we are getting ready for exams, and we also have new elections coming up at the end of November. I will be ending my term as President at that time, but we will be sure to let you know the results.

I invite you all to attend our upcoming meetings here at the house next semester. You can see the schedule on page 5 of this newsletter. We have a meeting in January, and the Super Saturday meeting in March. I hope you will be able to make it to one or both

We hope to have four of these newsletters a year with at least one mailed to your home, so until then, I hope you all have a great holiday season.



The chapter was able to recruit 12 men for this fall semester.



“As alumni and association members, one of our primary charges is to maintain the premises and to provide for a safe, clean, hospitable environment for them to live.”

Continuing the Alumni Drive

Pete Weisenberger

I trust this newsletter finds each of you well and prosperous. For our brothers and their families in the Tupelo-New Albany area, even more potential prosperity is on the horizon. The construction of Toyota in the area will really take economic development to a new plateau in all of North Mississippi and beyond. Best of everything to all of you there.

Turning our attention to FarmHouse and Mississippi State, we have struggled mightily over the history of the MSU Chapter to maintain the numbers of pledges and actives to keep the house operating profitably and to sustain and perpetuate the fraternity at Mississippi State. We've had some good years and some not-so-good years. For the past few we have been low on numbers, and it shows.

The good news is we've got quality young men in the house. They are shouldering the responsibility of being in school to get an education, and to prepare for a career out here in the cold, cruel world. Part of their life at MSU is, and always will be, FarmHouse Fraternity. FarmHouse is a big part of what draws me back to MSU on a continuing basis. As the active chapter, their part of the deal is to maintain scholarship, and to have fun doing it. They are the face of FarmHouse at the MSU. When other students look to FarmHouse, the active chapter members are who they see. The quality of the individual

shines through and makes the chapter what it is. I believe we have high quality young men in the chapter right now. And more to come.

As alumni and association members, one of our primary charges is to maintain the premises and to provide for a safe, clean, hospitable environment for them to live. To that end, we need to "bump it up a notch". Our president, Richard Strachan, is setting the pace and the tone for our renewed focus. His leadership style is affecting all of us positively. FarmHouse is indeed a collection of wonderful individuals.

We have relatively little mortgage debt remaining on the house. We have significant capital improvements/upgrades which need to be completed immediately. And a scheduled program of capital improvements needs to be identified, maintained, funded and completed on at least a bi-annual basis. The house is in remarkably good shape for its age.

We need to eliminate the remaining second mortgage balance at the Bank of New Albany. It is a single-maturity note on an annual renewal. Interest is paid monthly. Notwithstanding that fact, we need to eliminate this debt off our books and get on with the other needs.

Several contributions of money have been made over the past three years which have alternately paid down debt, provided for some emergency

repairs, and, more importantly at the time, paid some on-going expenses of the house. This last part was critical at each time it was done as it kept the house open and in business. Sometimes, we have to make choices that don't match earlier expectations in order to stay alive to fight another day. In other words, we have to get through the short-term to get to the long-term.

Now, the crux of the matter. We are in need of your contribution of funds for two things. Eliminating the second-mortgage debt and funding much-needed capital improvements/upgrades to the house. By following the steps outlined on the attached Pledge Sheet, you can ensure the funds are placed in an account that will be strictly limited to the uses to which you dedicate them. And by following these steps, you will be assured the contribution will be tax-deductible. (Always consult your tax advisor before making such a pledge or contribution.) The national office of FarmHouse will provide appropriate documentation of tax-deductibility.

Please consider using the attached Pledge Sheet to assure your contribution is applied solely to the MSU Chapter's benefit. There is space available to also donate to the international fraternity, if you so desire.

I thank you for your time. I hope to see you in the near future at FarmHouse and elsewhere around Mississippi.

Possible Merger with Alpha Tau Zeta

Chad Harris

For several months the International Fraternity has been in discussion with Alpha Tau Zeta (ATZ) Fraternity at Ohio State University (OSU) about a possible merger of the two organizations.

ATZ is the alpha chapter of Alpha Zeta and was founded in 1897 at Ohio State. Over the years Alpha Zeta spread to several campuses and include many FarmHouse brothers in the respective campus organizations. At some locations, including Ohio State, the organization provides a residential environ-

ment for men to live, operate and socialize together in a fraternal manner.

The OSU chapter desired to further promote a holistic approach to the development of men, beyond the scholarly attributes central to Alpha Zeta, and so the chapter splintered from the national Alpha Zeta organization in the 1990s to become Alpha Tau Zeta.

Beginning nearly a year ago, discussions began again between the alumni leadership of ATZ and the International office of FH about a

possible merger. Through a series of communications and face-to-face meetings, the possibility of ATZ becoming a chapter of FarmHouse. Has been discussed. There is great mutual gain in this endeavor but many aspects still to consider and work out.

FH International has expansion plans slated to begin at the OSU campus in the fall of 2011, therefore, conversations about the merger are taking place now. ATZ intends to make its final decision by alumni vote this coming Spring.



Reconnecting with the Past

Brian M. McCann, Ph.D.

George Long, who helped start the chapter back in the early 60s, recently reconnected with the chapter, and has provided some interesting bits of history for the chapter's archives.

Long was a part of a group of men who originally met with Lyle Gohn from Purdue, who came down to help get the colony here at Mississippi State started. Indeed, his wife,

Ellen was even selected as the group's first sweetheart. At the Fall Association meeting this past month, he was able to attend and present the chapter with the first charm given to Ellen, which now hangs in the Chapter Room.

George also provided the chapter with framed pages from the 1963 yearbook, which feature pictures of the first group of individuals to call

themselves FH men at MSU.

Although he and a few other men associated with the original FarmHouse colony here at MSU graduated before being part of the chartering class, members and alumni were glad to be able to welcome him back.

He and Ellen currently live in the Atlanta area, but plan to move back to Mississippi in the near future.



The first MSU FarmHouse Sweetheart charm, presented in 1963.

New Neighbors on the Way?

Brian M. McCann, Ph.D.

The Mississippi State chapter of Delta Chi has put in an offer to purchase the old Alpha Gamma Delta house located behind the current MSU FarmHouse chapter house.

Vacant for many years, Mississippi State has been using the facility as of late for temporary office space as construction has continued on

various parts of the campus.

Delta Chi has been in negotiations with MSU for most of the Fall semester to acquire the facility. This move was made for a variety of reasons, namely the extreme age of their current house off campus on Jackson Street, and the estimated amount of money needed to renovate the facility to meet new code

and insurance requirements.

Active members were able to tour the facility for a final time just before Homecoming at MSU early in October.

A final decision on the purchase will be made by December, with occupancy as early as Fall 2008.



The former residence of Alpha Gamma Delta Sorority at Mississippi State.



Alumni News Notes

1962

George Long and his wife Ellen recently purchased a home in Attala County, and plan to eventually relocate there permanently from the Atlanta area.

1991

Heath Childs and his wife Amanda welcomed their first baby, Cooper Guyton Childs, on September 18 at 7:21 pm. He weighed 8lbs 10 oz and was 20 inches long. Mother and baby are both doing great.

1992

Greg Kendrick is a Major in the US Air Force and serves as Deputy of Operations Support at Keesler AFB.

1995

Greg Flint was named an advisor to the Mississippi State chapter this Fall.

1997

Justin Godfrey is working

at the Atlanta International Airport as a US Customs Agriculture Specialist. He lives in Newnan, GA with his wife Ange and their one-year old son Owen.

Barry Henagan and his wife are expecting their first child next spring. They live outside Chicago, IL.

Guy Jones and his wife are expecting their second child.

Jason Medders and his wife are expecting triplets. They currently reside in Fargo, ND.

1998

Matt Frederikson was installed onto the International Board of Directions for the Mississippi State Alumni Association in July. He is a geographic information systems analyst with Metsys Solutions in Trussville, Ala.

Rusell Foxworth was married May 12th to Jenn Austin in Camden, SC.

1999

Eric Etherton is stationed at the Naval Air Station Fallon in Nevada, where top gun is located. He previously worked as a chemist for a few years in Memphis after graduating from Mississippi State, before attending Naval Officer Candidate School in 2004. He currently is a Weapons System Officer flying in the back of F/A-18F super hornets. He and his wife Kristine were married in Dec. of 2005.

2001

Eric Shirley is stationed in Albuquerque, NM with the US Air Force.

2004

Scotty Crum joined the Mississippi State campus police this past summer.

Conclave 2008 - Lubbock, TX

Don't forget to save the date! FarmHouse will be holding its 45th Biennial Conclave in Lubbock, TX in August of 2008.

Registration packets should be going out to all alumni sometime around March, but make your plans now if you can.

Stay tuned for more information in the Winter Issue of the FH Focus!



FarmHouse Fraternity

What's Coming Up

Be sure to mark the following on your calendar:

November 23 — The 104th Egg Bowl between Ole Miss and MSU will occur on campus this year. Kickoff is scheduled for 11:30am at Scott Field.

December 14-15 — Graduation ceremonies at Mississippi State University.

March 10-14 — Spring Break at Mississippi State University.

January 26 — The Winter Association Planning Meeting will be held at the chapter house and will start at 10:00am. Board members and chapter members are required to be in attendance, but all alumni are encouraged to stop by as well.

March 28-30 — Super Bulldog Weekend. Mississippi State will be welcoming Georgia to campus to play a triple-header Friday, Saturday and Sunday. This is one of the biggest rush weekends for the chapter. There are ballgames will be held at 6pm on the 28th, 2pm on the 29th and 1:30pm on the 30th. On Saturday and Sunday, there will be BBQ and social activities at the chapter house for anyone that wants to join in. If any of you know of guys that are attending MSU or will be, bring them by the house.

March 29 — The Spring Association Meeting will be held at the chapter house and will start at 10:00am Dough-nuts, orange juice, and coffee will be available before the meeting. We will adjourn for lunch and have the banquet that evening at the house. Family and rushees are invited to come.

May 2-3 — Graduation ceremonies at Mississippi State University.

August 13-17 — FarmHouse International's 45th Biennial Conclave in Lubbock, TX

Faith

Ambition

Reverence

Morality

Honesty

Obedience

Unity

Service

Excellence

Alumni Change of Address:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____ E-mail: _____

Please Return To:
FarmHouse Fraternity
Mississippi State Chapter
P.O. Box 6344
Mississippi State, MS 39762



Fall 2007 Members and Officers		
Kenny Houston	President	Oxford, MS
Tyler Roberts	VP - Finance	Water Valley, MS
Daniel Wilson	VP - Recruitment	Hamilton, MS
Joseph Wilson	Director of New Member Education	Hamilton, MS
Ty Scott*	Director of Alumni Relations	Sherman, MS
Keith Barlow	Director of Administration / Kitchen Manager / Total Mem. Ed.	Meridian, MS
Matthew Berry	Director of House Operations	Raymond, MS
Steven Loftin*	Ast. Director of House Operations	Redbanks, MS
John Anthony*	Director of Risk Management & Scholarship	Water Valley, MS
Alon Blakeney	Social, Brotherhood, Community Service, & Philanthropy Chair	Taylorville, MS
Joey Fortner*	Athletic / Intramurals Chair	Water Valley, MS
Jeremy Adams*		Diamondhead, MS
Brian Bullock*		Clinton, MS
Coleman Crigler*		Starkville, MS
Carson Dickenson*		Patuxent River, MD
Forrest Follett*		Starkville, MS
Jeffrey Garner*		Bay Springs, MS
Ben Wait*		Etta, MS
Bo Williams		Myrtle, MS
Brian McCann	Faculty Advisor	
Daniel Fox	Advisor	
Greg Flint	Advisor	
Bruce Royce	Advisor	

FarmHouse Fraternity
 Mississippi State University
 P.O. Box 6344
 Mississippi State, MS 39762

FarmHouse Fraternity
Mississippi State University

I am enclosing my check for:

(_____) \$1,000 (_____) \$250 *Please make check payable to:*
(_____) \$500 (_____) Other **The FarmHouse Foundation**
7306 NW Tiffany Spring
Suite 210
Kansas City, MO 64153

In order to receive tax deductibility of this gift, your check should be made payable to The FarmHouse Foundation. The Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization. We have no organization at the local level to which we can donate and receive this tax benefit.

Please charge my credit card:

_____ MasterCard _____ Visa _____ American Express _____ Discover
Credit Card No.: _____ Expiration Date: _____
Cardholder's Name (Please print): _____
Cardholder's Signature: _____

as my contribution to the
Mississippi State University Chapter of FarmHouse Fraternity

Please designate my gift as follows:

- (\$_____) **Debt Service on the Mortgage at Bank of New Albany** (Proceeds will be applied first to the retirement of the second mortgage balloon note; after the second mortgage note is liquidated, proceeds will be applied to the amortizing first mortgage note)
- (\$_____) **Capital Improvements on the House and Grounds**
- (\$_____) **General Fund** (Funds will be used for general maintenance and on-going operating expenses of the house)

If you wish to donate to the international fraternity, please consider the following:

- (\$_____) **General Fund** (15% of the gift will be earmarked for your chapter of initiation unless instructed otherwise)
- (\$_____) \$10.00 added for the support of publication of *Pearls & Rubies*
- (_____) I am considering making a provision for FarmHouse in my estate plan. Please call me.
Best time to call: _____AM _____PM
- (_____) I've already included FarmHouse in my estate plan
_____ Will _____ Trust arrangement
_____ Insurance Policy _____ Other
- (_____) Please send me information on all aspects of giving

Name: _____ Year Initiated: _____
Address: _____

Phone: _____
E-mail: _____