



# FarmHouse Focus

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## Chapter Update and Founder's Day 2008

Alon Blakeney

I hope 2008 has been good to you and your family so far. Here at the chapter house, things have been chugging along quite well. We are now just about a month away from the end of the semester and as we wrap up classes we are also turning our attention to summer recruitment.

As you are no doubt aware, our membership has been in decline for the past decade, but we seem to have turned a corner, and we have great hopes to significantly add to the 19 members we have now.

Currently, we have four men confirmed as pledges for the fall, and have started a rush list as well. We also have recently received a list of incoming freshman, and are hoping to use this as a tool for our recruitment efforts as well. It will take a lot of work, but we are hopeful to have a class of at least 10 men this fall.

As far as the chapter house is concerned, we just got through with some major repair and improvements. The campus information technology department has completed wiring the internet in all of the rooms allowing every member to have access to a much needed high speed connection that is on par with dorms and other fraternity and sorority houses on campus.

The roofers have also finished a

complete re-roofing of the main structure as well as our shed in the back. We have great hopes that this will end the leaks we have had in the dining room and in the front entrance as well.

There are still several other items to address at the house as well, and we are hoping to do so at a work day at the house on April 5th, starting at 8am. If you will be able to come down and help, we would be much appreciated.

Of course, the other big news here at MSU FarmHouse was the Founder's Day celebration we held here at the house in conjunction with MSU's Super Saturday. I want to thank the over 20 alums that were able to attend both the Association meeting and the lunch and awards ceremony afterwards.

Of course, as a chapter, we also want to extend a congratulations to Robert Graham, who was awarded the Snyder Award for outstanding alumni service, and Kenny Houston, immediate chapter past president, for the Doane Award for outstanding chapter service.

Looking forward into the summer, we will have a few members staying at the house for the may-semester and summer terms, and it is hoped we can put them to work with on campus recruitment efforts while they are here.



Members at Founder's Day

We also will be holding a recruitment event at Northeast Mississippi Community College as well, and we will be sending out more information about that in the future as those plans are formalized.

Of course, we also have Conclave to look forward to in August, and we hope some of you will be able to join us in Lubbock for a week of brotherhood in the Lone Star State.

So, till then, I wish you all a great spring and summer!



Robert Graham (MS' 69)

## Minutes of the Spring Association Meeting



The Spring Association meeting and Founder's Day observation was held at the chapter house in coordination with Super Saturday.

- The meeting was called to order at 10:06 a.m. with 22 alumni members present as well as the active chapter and current pledges. After the recitation of the object, a scripture passage by Richard Strachan, and an introduction of pledges, actives and alumni, business was started.
- The chapter president, Alon Blakeney gave the first report
  - Recruitment continues at the university, with 4 confirmed pledges for the fall and a recruitment list already started in an effort to add to this number.
  - Grades were not stellar last semester, and efforts are under way to improve the overall GPA this semester
  - The chapter has just received a list of incoming freshman from the Office of Student life, and will be utilizing this in their rush efforts this summer.
  - Searcy is still employed and doing well.
- The chapter treasurer, Daniel Wilson gave the financial report.
- Myles Carpenter, Alumni Association treasurer, gave the financial report.
  - The chapter took out a third loan from the bank to cover the expenses of replacing the roof over the house
  - A letter was sent out to alums in March making note of the status of the chapter and the need for additional donations to help reduce debt
- Greg Flint, chapter advisor, reported that some bickering has occurred during the school year, but overall, the chapter is doing quite well, and the members seem to be getting along.
- Richard Strachan asked Eric and Ryan Paulk to take over administration of the Contingency Fund
  - They hope to set up an account though PayPal that will be linked through the chapter website so that members can donate more easily, and to help with the administration of the account
  - For those that do not have internet access, letters will still be sent out
- Old Business
  - The chapter has paid Dr. Carpenter about 33% of the rent they owe for the current semester, and hope to have the final balance to him by the end of April.
  - The nomination committee reported that they suggested re-electing the current slate of officers for the positions that are open as of the current meeting.
  - The fund raising letter was sent out to all alumni at the end of March.
- New Business
  - **ACTION ITEM:** A motion was made and was passed to re-elect all members of the Association board whose terms were up as of the spring meeting. Motion passed.
  - **ACTION ITEM:** A workday will be held at the chapter house on Saturday, April 5th starting at 8am and lasting until work is completed. Greg Flint has the current list of items that need attention around the house.
- Announcements
  - We need names from alumni, especially if they are legacies, for recruitment.
  - April 14th will be the date for a recruitment event at Northeast Mississippi Community College.
  - We need to look long term at setting up a scholarship for chapter members.
  - It was noted that Conclave is this August, and all members were encouraged to attend.
- The meeting was adjourned at 11:06 a.m.

Following the meeting, alumni and parents who were in attendance for Super Saturday were invited to eat a Founder's Day lunch catered at the house and organized by the chapter. Jim Shirley was the featured speaker. At the conclusion of the lunch, the Darl E. Snyder award was given to Robert Graham. He had been elected to receive the award last year, but the plaque was not ready. After a brief acceptance speech, the Founder's Day lunch was concluded.

# What's Coming Up

Be sure to mark the following on your calendar:

**April 5** — Work Day at the Chapter House (starts at 8am)

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

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

**August 18** — Fall semester begins at MSU.

**October 6 & 7** — Fall Break at MSU.

**October 25** — Homecoming at MSU against Middle Tennessee State. The **Fall Association Meeting** will be held at the house starting at 10am. Dough-nuts, orange juice, and coffee will be available before the meeting. Please try to arrive around 9am to meet and greet before hand.

## Conclave 2008 - Lubbock, TX

Don't forget to save the date! Farm-House 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**

**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



Spring 2008 Members and Officers		
Alon Blakeney	President	Taylorville, MS
Daniel Wilson	VP - Finance	Hamilton, MS
Joseph Wilson	VP - Recruitment	Hamilton, MS
Jeffrey Garner	Dir. of New Mem. Ed., Total Mem. Ed., & Intramurals Co-Chair	Bay Springs, MS
Steven Loftin	Director of Alumni Relations	Redbanks, MS
Keith Barlow	Director of Administration	Meridian, MS
Matthew Berry	Director of House Operations	Raymond, MS
John Anthony	Director of Risk Management	Water Valley, MS
Ty Scott	Director of Scholarship	Sherman, MS
Ben Wait	Social & Brotherhood Chair	Etta, MS
Carson Dickenson	Community Service & Philanthropy Chair	Patuxent River, MD
Coleman Crigler*	Kitchen Manager & Intramurals Co-Chair	Starkville, MS
Brian Bullock	Chaplain	Clinton, MS
Joey Fortner*	Historian	Water Valley, MS
Kenny Houston		Oxford, MS
Mikey Jankovic*		Marietta, GA
Tyler Roberts		Water Valley, MS
Ryan Tucker*		Hamilton, MS
Bo Williams		Myrtle, MS
Daniel Fox	Senior Advisor	
Greg Flint	Advisor	
Dr. Brian McCann	Faculty Advisor	
Bruce Royce	Advisor	

\* Pledge

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