



# FARMHOUSE FOCUS

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OCTOBER 2008

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## Fall Semester Update from the Chapter

Alon Blakeney



Greetings to the alumni and friends of the Mississippi State Chapter of FarmHouse. I hope your

summer went well, and that as the cooler weather starts to move in that you are prepared for Fall. I wanted to write in this edition of the newsletter and let you know how things are going at the house, and give you some updates on some happenings on campus and with the Fraternity.

As many of you know this summer, FarmHouse Fraternity International held its 45th Biennial Conclave in Lubbock, TX. We were able to get five men, including myself, to pile into an extended cab truck and make the long road trip over to Lubbock... and I have to say, that was quite an adventure!

I'll spare you all any specific details, but as I am sure all of you know from road trips, it was a time to remember. We arrived to find that Robert Graham also was able to come down and roomed near us in the host hotel, and we were happy to get a chance to hang out with him again as well.

Of course the main reason we came to Conclave was to see the awarding of the "Builder of Men"

award to Dr. Myles Carpenter. Myles and his wife were also able to make the road trip over from Starkville, so in addition to Dr. Brian McCann, our faculty advisor who also serves on the International Staff, we had a great group of actives and alumni to attend his award ceremony, and I wanted to again wish him congratulations.

Unfortunately, Conclave ended on the Sunday before the fall semester began at MSU, so we were very late getting into Starkville on Monday morning. Although we were wiped out that first day of school, it was still worth the trip.

As far as the chapter is con-

cerned, we have 15 active members currently with 2 pledges (you can see the bios on them in this newsletter) and several prospects, one of which will likely be an official pledge soon. I know this sounds like we have dropped in numbers, but we had some graduations and members who left that we needed to get rid of to help the house in the long run.

Let me assure you that rush is a top concern for us. We worked on this over the summer and met several men that we are still in contact with now. With the completion of formal rush the week of September 15th, we are

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**Robert Graham and Brian McCann present Myles Carpenter the "Master Builder" award at the 45th Biennial Conclave.**

# Alumni News Notes



**1997**

**Justin Godfrey** and his wife are expecting their second child in February.

**1998**

**Jon Cavin** and his wife Nichole are expecting another child in February.

**1999**

**Aaron "Ohio" Scamma-**

**horn** got married on June 21, 2008. His new wife is the former Roseanne Ellison and they'll live in Ansonia, OH.

**Will Gilmer** and his wife are expecting their second child in April.

**2003**

**Justin McMillen** underwent open heart surgery on August 12th to correct a life-threatening

defect. Fortunately, the surgery went well, and he is recovering.

**2004**

**Adam Courtney** and his wife Michelle welcomed their first child, Madelyn Presley on August 9th.

## New Sorority Comes to Mississippi State

As some of you may have heard, we have a new sorority house going up on the row in the vacant lot beside our chapter house. Pi Beta Phi will be breaking ground on the new facility, which hopes to have occupancy by the end of next year.

Pi Phi is the newest Greek organization at MSU, which was invited to come to campus along with Sigma Nu Fraternity last year. According to its na-

tional website, the group has a presence at major universities in 43 states and Canada, more than 13,000 collegiate members, over 330 alumnae organizations and hundreds of thousands of women claiming membership.

Obviously, the guys are excited about having additional new neighbors, but it might cause some issues as we deal with construction so close to our facility

over the next year or so. We will update you on the progress as we get more information.



Pi Beta Phi Future House Site

## Fall Semester Update (continued)

now in full recruitment mode and trying to close the deal on our top prospects. I hope to have some good news on that front at this fall's Association meeting later this month.

Speaking of the Association meeting, I do hope you all will be able to come down and attend the meeting during MSU's homecoming weekend. We are planning on having some music and fun in the afternoon/evening of that Saturday at the

house, courtesy of Bill Cook, so feel free to stop over, or hang around. Just let us know if you need lodging.

So, overall, I have to say I am excited about how the fall is going so far. On a personal note, this semester has been a big change for me personally, since I have started with ROTC. Those early mornings are a tough thing to get used to! But, it's been a good experience as well, and I hope that it will help

me to become a better President here for the chapter as well.

Please let me know if you have any rushee names you would like to pass on to the chapter, or if I can help you in any way.

**Go Dawgs!**



# FH Contingency Fund Goes 'Online'

Eric Paulk

At a recent association meeting, a motion was made that the Contingency Fund be resurrected within the alumni association. Since that time, we have made some good progress, and are happy to share the relaunch with you in this edition of the newsletter.

Brothers Eric and Ryan Paulk (MS '99), in cooperation with Frank Lovell (MS '00) and Brian McCann (MS '95) have worked hard to get things set up again, and make it easier for donations

to be accepted and distributed.

As a bit of history, the contingency fund is a pot of money that is managed by the alumni association to provide financial assistance to the active chapter in times of need. In the past, the fund has been used for house maintenance, paying the salaries of those employed by the active chapter, and paying off expense balances from FarmHouse International.

One of the problems with the

contingency fund in the past, however, has been the frequency of both alumni and active chapter member giving. With the help of one our technologically gifted alumni, Brian McCann, we have been able to provide access to the Contingency Fund via the Internet using the Paypal system.

You can now make one time donations, or you can setup a monthly draft that will go towards rebuilding the contingency fund and providing for the chapter in times of need by visiting

the chapter website and clicking on the "alumni" link.

<http://www.fhmsu.org>

Should you wish to make donations by traditional check, you can also send them payable to:

FH Contingency Fund c/o Eric Paulk, 6509 Hearthfalls Drive, Rogers, AR 72758.

These donations are not tax deductible, but will greatly assist us as we prepare for unforeseen repairs and other circumstances at the house in the near future.

# Ohio State ATZ Merger Update

As you may have read here in our newsletter in a recent issue, and in Pearls and Rubies, FarmHouse International has made the move to merge with Alpha Tau Zeta at The University of Ohio. That merger has been tentatively approved, and things are going forward.

At the 45th Biennial Conclave this August, a delegation of

alumni and active chapter members from ATZ attended and got to meet with alumni and actives of FarmHouse. Overall, things seem to be going well, and everyone is excited about the opportunity not only to welcome new brothers, but move on to The Ohio State campus.

The plan as it stands now is to

make the group a colony of FarmHouse starting this fall, and lasting for a period of two years. Assuming everything goes well, we will welcome them as The Ohio State ATZ Chapter of FarmHouse at the 46th Biennial Conclave in August of 2010, to be held in Columbus, OH.



# Searcy Still in Recovery



As some of you have heard, Mrs. Searcy suffered a heart attack the first week of September, and has been absent from the house this semester. While at the hospital following the event, doctors found an ulcer as well, which prevented them from giving her the blood thinning

medications she needed to undergo an operation to attempt to clear the blockage that caused her attack.

Searcy was sent home on medications most of last month, and was unable to return to work. As a result, her income was diminished at a time when her medical bills were rising. Thanks to help from many of you and chapter members, we were able to raise some money to help her out.

The guys have been visiting her regularly to make sure she is ok, and have been pulling their weight around the house and taking turns cooking to keep the kitchen running. Although Searcy is eager to get back to work, we have told her she needs to stay home and get well.

While the future is uncertain, she definitely could use your thoughts, prayers, and additional donations if you have the

ability. Greg Flint (MS '95) has agreed to receive any funds and deliver them to her to offset medical expenses. His address follows:

Greg Flint  
3279 Sam Pole Rd  
Sturgis Mississippi 39769

We will continue to keep you updated on her status as we learn more over the next month or so.



## Meet Our New Members



**Name:** William Earl Knight  
*Legacy of Butch Knight (MS '81)*  
**Hometown:** Leesburg, GA  
**Major:** Undeclared  
**Class:** Freshman  
**Living:** In dorm due to new rules requiring freshman to live on campus



**Name:** Mark Aaron Matthews  
**Hometown:** Austin, TX  
**Major:** Mechanical Engineering  
**Class:** Sophomore  
**Living:** In House



## Fall '08 Semester Begins

This fall the chapter starts the semester with 15 actives, 2 pledges, and Dan Fox serving as Senior advisor, Greg Flint as Chapter Advisor, Billy Butler as Advisor, and Dr. Brian McCann as Faculty Advisor. The chapter is also working on several men to join before beginning the new member program later in October.

## MSU Remaining Fall Football Schedule

Date	Opponent	Location	Time / Media
Sat, Oct 11	Vanderbilt	Starkville	1:30 p.m.
Sat, Oct 18	Tennessee	Knoxville, TN	T.B.A.
Sat, Oct 25	Middle Tennessee (HC)	Starkville	1:30 p.m.
Sat, Nov 01	Kentucky	Starkville	T.B.A.
Sat, Nov 15	Alabama	Tuscaloosa, AL	T.B.A.
Sat, Nov 22	Arkansas	Starkville	T.B.A.
Fri, Nov 28	Ole Miss	Oxford, MS	11:30 a.m. / Raycom Sports

# What's Coming Up

Be sure to mark the following on your calendar:

**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. Donuts, orange juice, and coffee will be available before the meeting. Please try to arrive around 9am to meet and greet before hand.

**November 26, 27, 28** — Thanksgiving holidays (Wednesday through Sunday)

**December 2** — Classes end

**December 4,5,8,9,10** — Final examinations

**December 12, 13** — Commencement Ceremonies

**December 23 - January 2** — Winter Holidays

**January 7** — Spring Semester Begins

**January, T.B.D.** — January Association Planning Meeting (date to be determined at the Fall Association Meeting)

**March/April, T.B.D.** — Spring Association Meeting in conjunction with Super Bulldog Weekend (date to be determined later in the Fall semester with the announcement of the baseball schedule)

**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 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
Mikey Jankovic	Director of Scholarship	Marietta, GA
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
Will Knight*		Leesburg, GA
Mark Matthews*		Austin, TX
Tyler Roberts		Water Valley, MS
Ryan Tucker		Hamilton, MS
Billy Butler	Advisor	
Daniel Fox	Senior Advisor	
Greg Flint	Advisor	
Dr. Brian McCann	Faculty Advisor	
Bruce Royce	Advisor	

\* Pledge

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