



# FarmHouse Focus

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 2

APRIL 2009

## Looking Towards the Future

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Well, spring has finally arrived and as the tress have regained their leaves, and the mosquitoes have begun spreading their havoc, the semester has begun to wrap up here on campus.

We had mixed success during the first part of this year. We gained a few new members, but had to drop one pledge and had a change in leadership within the chapter, but overall, the members are optimistic and looking forward and not back.

As detailed during the spring association meeting this April, the chapter has already laid out a recruitment goal for the fall, and is hoping to have two summer rush events, with one in north Mississippi and one, hopefully, on the coast. We will email out more details as they become available, but look for a more information in the July edition of "Focus"

Financially, we are still holding our own, but we definitely still have a long way to go. We want to thank all the alumni that have gone to the chapter website and made a commitment to the Contin-

gency Fund through a one-time donation or setting up a monthly debit through PayPal: <http://www.msstate.edu/org/farmhouse/alumni.htm>

We have already seen great benefits from this fund, with the purchase of supplies for our work days and reimbursement of labor to fix air conditioners. Still, more is needed, so please consider helping out.

The decision was made during the spring association meeting to keep the house open, and those that will be staying for the summer term will be helping out with the final

work on the backyard fence, which will be getting new boards through the generous donation of Billy Butler. The plan is to have the fence completely repaired by the start of the fall semester.

We also have been blessed this semester by some great efforts and leadership from our alums, especially advisor Billy Butler ('98), who really has helped keep the chapter to the grindstone this year, resulting in a lot of positive change in the chapter.

Please feel free to browse the newsletter for other updates, and have a great summer!



16 alumni joined the chapter for the Spring Association Meeting and 45th Annual Founder's Day for the Mississippi State Chapter.

## Minutes of the Spring Association Meeting



An initiation ceremony for the new members was conducted beginning at 9:20am. At the conclusion of the ceremony, and a brief meet and greet, the spring association meeting was called to order at 10:10 am by President Richard Strachan. 16 alumni were in attendance. After the recitation of the object, prayer and an introduction of pledges, actives and alumni, business was started.

The chapter President, Mikey Jankovic gave the first report:

- Goals include a pledge class of 6, meeting International minimum standards, an overall GPA of 3.1, holding a summer and fall retreat and improving public relations with community
- The chapter is currently: conducting and scheduling recruitment workshops, holding study sessions for those below academic standards, building closer ties to IFC/organizations and challenging members to get more involved on campus
- They also want to increase the number of chapter activities and philanthropies

The chapter treasurer's report was given by Brian Bullock and Financial Association Board Member James Williams:

- The chapter is still within budget, and currently collecting the last bill of the semester
- There are still a couple of rents due to the Association, to be collected by the end of the term

The chapter recruitment chair, John Anthony gave his report:

- The chapter is currently holding recruitment workshops for the chapter currently, focusing on informal rush over the summer
- Bi-monthly recruitment events were held in the spring (gained 2 pledges and a list of potentials so far)
- For the summer we have a list of 2400 males coming to MSU in the fall, need to call list and make letters to them/parents... will parse them for location and best fit

Myles Carpenter, Association Treasurer, next gave the Association financial report.

The chapter advisors report followed:

- Billy Butler noted that even though numbers are low, the group is good, and is hoping for a good recruitment this summer. Billy has worked extensively this past spring with the guys to get them on the right direction, with positive results so far in attitude and energy levels.
- Greg Flint echoed Billy's comments and recognized his motivation and work with the guys this past spring.

Old Business

- FH Foundation: We still have a balance for activities and leadership academy
- Work Days: Billy noted that work was done in the bathroom, replacing the light switches, fence work and halls painted. Need to plan 2 more work days this fall.

New Business

- Election of new officers was conducted. Results were: VP: Robert Graham, Treasurer: Myles Carpenter, Events Planning: Bruce Royce, Finance: James Williams, Fund Raising: Eric Paulk
- Tax Issues: Had an error on the 2008 form that was corrected

The meeting was adjourned at: 11:14 am

A BBQ lunch was provided for those in attendance, with George Bates as the featured speaker for the 45th anniversary of the chapter.

The Fall Association Meeting will be held during the homecoming football game featuring MSU against Houston. The current date for this event is Saturday, October 10, with the meeting beginning at 10:00 am. As usual, refreshments will be served starting at 9am.

## Fish Fry / Work Day #2 a Success

The results are in, and the second annual fish fry was held at the chapter house on Friday, March 24th, and was a rousing success.

The event began during lunch-time and lasted till the early evening, when the local Mississippi State comedy troupe put on a comedy show to a packed house.

Stephen Pannell ('95) donated the use of two large deep fryers, and he and other alumni assisted

the chapter in serving over 300+ plates.

People from all over Starkville and MSU came to or placed a group order, and the Chapter took in around \$450.

Billy Butler ('98), chapter advisor, was pleased and felt the chapter really got their name out. "I would have been happy with the PR boost alone," he said. "The Active Chapter as a whole really worked hard." A portion of the profits will be

donated to the Palmer Children's Home in Columbus and the balance will go into costs for improvements on the house.

After the Fish Fry, The Lab Rats Improv Group put on a show outside (despite a last minute move indoors due to torrential rains). The basketball court (and later the dining room) was turned into a stage and everyone had a good time. They performed at no cost to the house and were a big draw for the Fish Fry.

The second workday of the spring was held the following day. Most of the fence was put up; however, further work will have to be completed this summer. Many of the boards were rotten and could not be saved.

Paint touchups were made on the hallway, motion light switches were installed in the bathroom, and the highlight is a new disposal in the kitchen sink, thanks to a generous donation of Brett Howell ('96).

## Alumni's Farm Bureau Blog

The American Farm Bureau's blog features stories and commentary from current and former Young Farmers & Ranchers national committee members, and it was Alabama Dairy Farmer and chapter alumni Will Gilmer's ('99) turn recently to post a couple of contributions and promote the blog.

"We're trying to encourage

more and more people to regularly visit the site," he noted, "so I hope you'll check it out and even "bookmark" it as one of your favorites! It's a good site for everyone connected to agriculture...whether you're a producer or a consumer."

The blog can be found at:

<http://www.fb.org/blog>

His two posts are entitled "Defining Humane Treatment" and "My teat dip cup runneth over" and can be found by scrolling down the page or using the search box on the right side of the page.

Gilmer hopes alumni will visit the blog often to learn more about the issues that impact the food, fiber, and fuel you buy.



## March of Dimes - March for Babies

Guy ('97) and Kristi Jones wanted to thank everyone that donated on their behalf and that of their children, to the annual March of Dimes "March for Babies" event.

They were excited to report that they raised over \$3900 this year, a significant improvement over last year's total, and they want to thank everyone for their donations, prayers, and efforts spreading the word.

The March of Dime's March for Babies (formally WalkAmerica) has been occurring across America since 1970. Every year, 7 million compassionate people, including 20,000 company and family teams as well as national sponsors, participate to raise money to prevent premature births, birth defects and infant mortality.

Jones and his wife organized a

team to honor their two premature sons Conrad and Teague as well as the family of Jason Medders ('97), who lost three of their daughters to complications in-utero and premature birth.

This year, they received corporate sponsorship from Gilmer Dairy Farm, Amerex, ZTA, Jeff

Leonard Graphics, and Lyle Body Shop.

You can still donate or join the team at

<http://www.marchforbabies.org/teams/conradandteague>

march  of dimes  
march for babies

## Update from Billy Butler

As most of you know, we had our first workday for the spring on Saturday March 7th 2009. I would like to say that with the exception of a few rough spots, a lot was accomplished. The active members of the house had taken down the fence on the west side to the gate before the workday began. We then concentrated on re-setting the posts level and straight.

Most of the boards were in fair condition, except for two sections in the back. They had soaked up water and were rotten at the bottom. Those will have to be replaced. The fence was the major project of the day.

The hall was painted a light khaki color, the bushes were trimmed, and other minor projects were completed. The majority of the actives were there, two were missing due to a school project and a wedding. We had eight alumni come and help the guys, and I feel it let them get to know each other a little better. The Active Chapter would like to them for coming and helping.

This past Founder's Day, George T. Bates was our featured speaker, and gave a great talk about the early history of the chapter, given our 45th anniversary this year. A ladies' tea was also set up in the chapter room during the association meeting.

Overall, I was very pleased with the results. We had a good number of alumni in attendance, even given the late date for the event due to a rescheduling of Super Saturday. We do apologize to all the alums out there that had

prior commitments, but unfortunately, the scheduling of the spring event is outside of our hands.

Be sure to check out the minutes of the spring meeting in this newsletter to catch up on anything you may have missed

As this is the last update from the chapter before the summer, I wanted to pass along a few items that you may have not heard about.

The president (Alon Blakney) has stepped down due to personal reasons and special elections were held to replace the vacant position. Michael (Mikey) Jankovic is now the president, having served as treasurer since December and Steven Lofton will be assuming the VP of Finance (Treasurer) position when he returns to MSU in the Fall.

The house had two pledges this semester. One of the two pledges for the Spring was voted out, however. The chapter was torn, but I respect their decision and support them in it.

Workdays for the most part went well this semester. We had about ten alumni join the active chapter both workdays. I would like to thank them for giving their time. We installed motion light switches in the bathroom, painted the hall, installed a disposal in the kitchen, and many other projects. We took down the fence and set the posts in concrete on the west side of the house.

Due to rain for most of the month of March, we didn't get started putting

the fence back up until the second workday. After the attempt, I have made a decision to take the fence back down and get a local sawmill to rip us new boards for the west side.

This will be the best decision in the long run. There will be about four members staying in the house this Fall and we will turn the fence into a summer project. The boards we salvage will be used in the back corner.

Rush has become a big topic at the house. The guys are working on a rush video for the Fall and are planning a rush function for the summer. If you know of any young men that are coming to State in the Fall drop us a line so when can get their contact info to the guys. We are at a critical place right now with membership. The guys are making the right decisions about the quality of people they are bringing in the house, but more members would solve most of their problems.

This semester has been bittersweet for me. I have seen the guys improve from a year ago, but I have also seen the setbacks that they have had to deal with. I do have hope for the house. The advisors are committed, communication is better, quality members are in the house, and I think they are ready to rebuild a chapter. The next year will be the test.

Fraternally  
Billy Butler '98

# What's Coming Up

Be sure to mark the following on your calendar:

**August 17** — Fall Classes Begin

**Oct 10** — Homecoming at MSU against Houston. The Fall Association Meeting will be held at the house starting at 10:00 am. Donuts, orange juice, and coffee will be available before the meeting. Please try to arrive around 9am to meet and greet before hand.

**November 25, 26, 27** — Thanksgiving holidays (Wednesday through Sunday)

**December 1** — Classes end

**December 3, 4, 7, 8, 9** — Final examinations

**December 11, 12** — Commencement Ceremonies

*Faith*

*Ambition*

*Reverence*

*Morality*

*Honesty*

*Obedience*

*Unity*

*Service*

*Excellence*



The men of FarmHouse dedicated their time on Saturday, February 21, to help the Palmer Home Children's Ranch fix a fence and fill in a waterline ditch.

## 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 2009 Members and Officers		
Mikey Jankovic	President	Marietta, GA
Steven Loftin	VP - Finance & Chaplain	Redbanks, MS
John Anthony	VP - Recruitment & Director of Risk Management	Water Valley, MS
Jeffrey Garner	Dir. of New Member Education & Intramurals Chairman	Bay Springs, MS
Matthew Berry	Dir. of Alumni Relations & Chairs of Community Service & Philanthropy	Raymond, MS
Ryan Tucker	Director of Administration, House Operations & Kitchen Manager	Hamilton, MS
Joseph Wilson	Social & Brotherhood Chair and Director of Total Mem. Education	Hamilton, MS
Alon Blakeney		Taylorville, MS
Keith Barlow		Meridian, MS
Brian Bullock		Clinton, MS
Coleman Crigler		Starkville, MS
Carson Dickenson		Patuxent River, MD
Tyler Roberts		Water Valley, MS
Ben Wait		Etta, MS
Daniel Wilson		Hamilton, MS
Rico Hernandez		Greenville, MS
Billy Butler	Advisor	
Daniel Fox	Senior Advisor	
Greg Flint	Advisor	
Dr. Brian McCann	Faculty Advisor	
Bruce Royce	Advisor	

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