

# Our Future Begins Today



NOVEMBER 2011

## Campaign Surpasses \$420,000 in 3 Months!

How can you be quiet about raising \$420,000 by 56 donors in just three months? Despite our strong progress, the campaign is still in the silent phase as chapter volunteers are meeting one-on-one with key alumni to raise 70% of our \$1.2 million goal before reaching out to all 1,100 alumni.

“The growth of the campaign in these early stages is a real testament to the strength of the chapter’s vision and the solid commitment of our core volunteers,” said Bob Broeckelman ‘67. “But we’ve only just begun. We’ve yet to reach out to all alumni. But that day will come after we’ve had a chance to personally reach out to brothers who we think have



the capacity to make a leadership gift to the project. These are the type of men who will inspire others to give generously. Once we reach the \$750,000 mark, we’ll open the flood gates and reach out to all Alpha Zeta alumni to make a gift.”

## AGR Named Best Fraternity in Kansas!

This year marks the 150th anniversary of Kansas’ statehood, and The Topeka Capital-Journal, 580 WIBW, and The Big 94.5 Country are saluting all things that make Kansas the best place to live in the US. Not a big surprise for our undergraduates and alumni, the top vote getter for the best fraternity was Alpha Gamma Rho! Rounding out the voting was:

2. Phi Gamma Delta, Fiji
3. Phi Delta Theta
4. Farmhouse
5. Alpha Delta

Congratulations to all!

*“Every day I find greater value in my association with AZ-AGR. I am proud of our brothers in the roles of leadership in corporations and government. I can honestly say I swelled up with pride when my son joined the fraternity and stepped into leadership during his stay there. Through his involvement I see the great value and need to give back to a very worthy institution for other young men at KSU.”*



—Steven Miles ‘74

**1**  
Student Body  
President

**1**  
Kansas 4-H  
President

**3**  
Presidents and  
Officers of College  
of Ag Student  
Council

**9**  
Student Senators

**1**  
IFC President and  
Officers

**3**  
Kansas FFA  
Presidents

**3**  
National AGR  
Scholarship  
Winners

**56**  
Men Living-In  
House “Full”

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# Chapter Advisor Donates First Commodity Gift

AZ alumnus Josh Roe is a 2003 K-State graduate. A Watershed Economist and Extension Associate with the Department of Agricultural Economics, Josh has been Chapter Advisor since 2005. An avid supporter of AGR, Josh was the first person to donate a gift of commodities to the campaign effort. "It was painless," said Josh. "The key is alerting House Corp Treasurer Ben Brent of your intentions. He can help manage the process from there. For me, I was able to make an immediate and perhaps larger gift than I could have otherwise. The chapter benefits by being able to use these funds immediately – unlike the AGR Foundation or KSU Foundation - to reduce the mortgage. "



*Kevin Morgan, current Noble Ruler; Justin Hagedorn, past VNR Finance; Chapter Advisor Josh Roe '99; Clint VenJohm, past Noble Ruler; and Garrett Lister, current VNR Recruitment.*

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## Meet Our Undergraduates

Number of Members: 69

### Majors:

Ag Economics  
Animal Science  
Pre-Vet  
Veterinary Medicine  
Agronomy  
Milling Science  
Feed Science  
Agriculture Technology Management  
Ag Education  
Food Science  
Ag Communications  
Bakery Science  
Ag Business  
Wildlife Parks Management

### Community Service:

AGR is involved in many different philanthropies. Our cause of choice is the fight against Cystic Fibrosis in memory of Brother Sewell. The Sell-a-Fella Auction invites ladies from across KSU to bid on the gentlemen of AGR. Brothers purchased at auction are required to



*The 82nd Kansas FEA Convention ended with Brother Garrett Lister installing Brother Andrew Strasburg as state FEA President. Strasburg is the 7th consecutive AGR brother to hold a Kansas FEA Office and the 2nd consecutive president.*

buy or prepare dinner for the buyer. Alpha Gamma Rho also supports many agricultural events including AgFest, coordinated by the College of Agriculture, and the Ag for a Cure Benefit Concert, which supports Multiple Sclerosis research.

**For more information, contact Noble Rule Kevin Morgan at [kevind@ksu.edu](mailto:kevind@ksu.edu). Check out the AGR website at [www.ksuagr.org](http://www.ksuagr.org).**

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# \$1.2 Million Campaign Goal Over 5 Years

Mortgage Elimination	\$660,000
Permanent Scholarship Endowment	\$440,000
Capital Improvement Fund	\$100,000

## Benefits of Mortgage Retirement:

The chapter pays nearly \$70,000 in debt service annually, which is 57% of the Alumni Association's operating budget. If the mortgage was retired, these funds could be redirected to support short term needs and a building reserve fund to insure our chapter house remains competitive with its peers on campus.

## Permanent Endowment Secures Annual Scholarships

An endowment of \$440,000 would provide approximately \$17,600 each year for scholarships. A conservative 4% distribution policy should ensure that the endowment continues to grow, while the amount

made available for scholarships keeps pace with inflation. Currently the AZ scholarship program is supported by annual gifts from a few generous alumni. About 70% of K-Staters receive some sort of financial assistance. Scholarships can be a tool for enhancing recruitment, leadership and academic performance at the chapter.

## Immediate Capital Improvement Needs

Operating at peak capacity (56 men for the past 3 semesters) creates wear on the chapter house. Priority needs include parking lot/driveway improvements (some concrete is 54 years old), carpet replacement and improved bathroom floor drainage.

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## Three Ways to Give

Alpha Zeta leaders have long considered what benefits the chapter can provide to alumni for supporting the "Future Begins Today" campaign. As a result, there are three ways to give to the project to receive tax benefits, matching gift opportunities, and President's Club recognition at KSU.

1. To receive a charitable deduction, donors can direct cash and non cash gifts to the Educational Foundation of AGR. No fees will be incurred by AZ and all money will return to K-State based on a schedule predetermined by the IRS.

2. If a donor is interested in scholarships only, gifts may be directed to the KSU Foundation who will administer the AZ Scholarship Program according to chapter criteria. Donors will realize a charitable deduction and be eligible for President's Club benefits if their overall giving exceeds \$10,000. For employers unable to donate to a

fraternal organization, the KSU Foundation can accept matching gifts.

3. Donors may direct commodity gifts directly to the AZ Alumni Association. Farmers gifting inventory to charities may reduce their liability for federal and state income taxes and possibly on self-employment taxes. Prior to a gift of commodities, the donor should consult with their personal tax advisor to determine the best giving strategy. For AZ, these funds can be used immediately to pay down the mortgage.

**By completing a pledge card, alumni can indicate how their contribution should be treated. House Corp Treasurer Ben Brent (785-565-3140) and Campaign Coordinator Kathy Benson (585-734-2693) will direct your gift accordingly. Don't hesitate to call them if you have questions.**



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1228 Westloop  
Manhattan, KS 66502-2840

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## Gather with Alumni at Founders Day November 12<sup>th</sup>

Saturday, November 12th is Founders Day at the chapter house. Receive a guided tour by undergraduates to see first-hand the scope of the 2004 renovation. Volunteers will be available to discuss questions you may have concerning the capital campaign, such as a punch list of improvements prioritized by an alumni committee (Ryan Reiff, Richard Feyh, Mike Kramer, Roger Johnson and Dillon Cook). At an estimated cost of \$100,000, a new driveway, carpeting, and bathroom drainage are necessary. Parts of the driveway are over 50 years old! Other Founders Day activities include the annual Mothers' Club Auction.



*Bruce Thomas ('96), Michael Springer ('96), Dan Schmidt ('95), and Jeff Sutton ('96) at the Kansas Farm Bureau Young Farmers & Ranchers Leaders Conference.*

### Breaking News

- Campaign beats \$420,000! Silent Phase underway as volunteers meet one-on-one with key alumni.
- AGR named "Best Fraternity in Kansas" as part of our state's 150th anniversary.
- See the Donor Roster enclosed. Just 56 donors to date, including all members of the Campaign Committee headed by Bob Broeckelman '67 and Ty Brookover '96.
- 3 ways to support the "Future Begins Today" campaign to ensure tax benefits, matching gift opportunities and President's Club status at KSU.
- Over 100 alumni are joining up on Facebook. Check out the conversation by searching for "K-State AGR Alumni."