

Pearls & Rubies

Year 103, No. 2 • The Magazine of FarmHouse Fraternity • Spring 2008

My Life as an “American Idol”

*Oklahoma State's
Kyle Ensley (OK '06)
shares an inside look
at his ride on TV's
music phenomenon*



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OUR MISSION

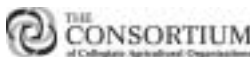
The object of our Fraternity is to promote good fellowship, to encourage studiousness and to inspire its members in seeking the best in their chosen lines of study, as well as in life. Progress shall mark our every step; the spirit of congeniality shall reign at all times; and every member shall be honest with himself as with his brothers. Men elected to our membership are considered to be of good moral character, to be high in scholarship, to have the capacity for meeting and making friends, and to give promise of service to their fellow men and to the world. To be and become such may at times require a sacrifice of time, pleasures and comforts.

FH CALENDAR

- July 1, 2008** – Conclave early registration deadline, save \$50
- July 16, 2008** – Conclave hotel reservation deadline
- July 18, 2008** – Minnesota Mark Eidahl (MN '89) Memorial Golf Tournament, Mankato, Minn.
- July 23, 2008** – Oklahoma State summer picnic and association meeting, Stillwater, Okla.
- July 31, 2008** – Kansas City-area summer gathering, Kansas City, Kan.
- August 1, 2008** – Conclave registration deadline
- August 13-17, 2008** – Conclave 2008 in Lubbock, Texas
- August 23, 2008** – Iowa State alumni golf outing and summer gathering, Des Moines, Iowa
- November 6-9, 2008** – International Board of Directors and FarmHouse Foundation Board of Trustees meeting, Kansas City, Mo.
- November 7, 2008** – Kansas City-area alumni dinner, Kansas City, Mo.

If you would like a FarmHouse event (Founder's Day, homecoming, alumni event, etc.) added to our calendar, email Chad@FarmHouse.org.

FarmHouse is a member of...



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ABOUT OUR COVER: Photo by Simon Podgorsek; Image from iStockphoto.com.

Barnes re-elected to NIC Board of Directors

Rick Barnes (TT '82) was re-elected to a two-year term to the North-American Interfraternity Conference's (NIC) Board of Directors at the annual meeting held in Washington, D.C. in April.

The NIC serves the needs of its member fraternities through advocacy, collaboration and education to ensure that fraternities can operate in an environment conducive to their success.

With 72 member organizations representing approximately 6,000 chapters located on 800-plus campuses in the United States and Canada, reaching 350,000 undergraduate members, the NIC is governed by a board of directors comprised of nine volunteers from member fraternities.

Barnes is a former Greek-life professional at Texas Christian University and previous member of the Fraternity's International board of directors. Barnes is a professional speaker and consultant working with undergraduate college students in the areas of leadership development, chapter operations, recruitment and risk management. Rick and his wife, Sheila, live in Keller, Texas.

Congratulations to Rick for his continued commitment to the men's fraternal movement in North America.



Gigstad joins International Office as intern

A new face joins the headquarters this summer, as Andy Gigstad (KS '07) will serve a summer internship with the International Fraternity and the FarmHouse Foundation. A native of Nortonville, Kan., Andy recently completed his junior year at Kansas State University where he is majoring in agriculture economics and finance, with a minor in political science. Active on campus, Andy is the current IFC president, an ag ambassador and member of the student alumni board and agricultural economics club. He will assist with Conclave planning, donor relations, expansion efforts and educational program development. Andy's e-mail address is Andy@FarmHouse.org.



Andy Gigstad



Heggen to serve as FRMT director

Art Heggen (IA '66) will serve as the next director to the Fraternity Risk Management Trust, Ltd. (FRMT) board of directors on behalf of FarmHouse. Art is recently retired from a distinguished career with Assurant, having served as the Fortune 500 Company's executive vice president for corporate planning and as its corporate secretary. Art currently serves as the FarmHouse Foundation's Board of Trustees chairman. He and his wife, Betty, reside in Miami, Fla.



Art Heggen

FRMT, Ltd. was formed in September 1996 as a reinsurance company owned by 12 national college fraternities. FarmHouse was an early member of FRMT. Today, 27 fraternities comprise the membership. Growth in the organization is a testament to its focus upon reducing the dependence of its member fraternities upon the commercial insurance market and allowing each member and the collective group to obtain a greater control over their future insurance needs and costs.

Heggen fills the position previously occupied by Bill Snyder (NE '92). The Fraternity appreciates Bill's service in this role for the last several years.



Rick Barnes (TT '82), NIC Board Member

Tell us about yourself.

I grew up in west Texas. I received my bachelor's degree in agricultural economics from Texas Tech University and my master's degree from Texas Christian University. I am a professional speaker, author and personal coach working with college students and organizations. My wife, Sheila, and I live in Keller, Texas.



Rick Barnes (TT '82), left, is pictured with U.S. Congressman Kenny Hulshof (MO '77), right, at the NIC Congressional Reception in April. The reception was held in conjunction with the NIC Annual Meeting and the annual legislative advocacy lobbying day on Capitol Hill.

Why did you decide to get involved with the NIC?

It provides the opportunity to work with the greater interfraternal movement, which is something I am passionate about. As an undergraduate I was involved with IFC and realized that the Fraternity experience is broader than just my own chapter. I firmly believe that when talented men come together and work cooperatively much can be achieved.

What exciting things are happening today with the NIC?

The legislative lobbying work we do in Washington, D.C., is very important. All chapters will benefit from the Collegiate Housing Infrastructure Act (CHIA), our current legislative issue. Also, the NIC Standards. Compliance with the standards shows a chapter is on the right track and that membership in the chapter will be a positive experience.

How can FarmHouse men get involved with the NIC?

Undergraduates should get involved with their local IFC and take advantage of the educational leadership opportunities the NIC hosts such as UIFI and Futures Quest. Alumni members can help the NIC with the legislative letter writing campaign in support of CHIA. Additionally, in order to assist chapters, alumni need to remain current on the issues facing fraternities today.

What keeps you up at night with the fraternal movement?

Risk management — try as we might, hazing and alcohol mis-use and abuse continue to plague many fraternities.

Why did you join FarmHouse?

I'm a prime example of word of mouth recruitment. I never intended to join a fraternity; however, a friend in my residence hall was a member of FarmHouse and invited me to check it out. I did and after meeting the men my attitude toward fraternity involvement changed and I've been active ever since.

What's the biggest challenge facing FarmHouse today?

Size. As we face a more and more competitive world in all that we do, we must realize that growth is a mark in which progress shall mark our every step. If your chapter is the same size as it was 20 years ago, that is not progress.



CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS

Auburn

For the ninth time in 10 years, the chapter was named the top fraternity on campus and received the 2007 Martin Award.

Brandon Bodie ('06) was selected as a Friend of Aubie, the university's mascot.

Camp War Eagle counselors for the Auburn University summer orientation program include **Chris Wheeler** ('07) and **Clay Parker** ('07).

Gregg Peters ('07) was elected Auburn student government treasurer. **Phil Wehrman** ('06), **Brad Smith** ('06), **Justin Saknini** ('06) and **Stuart Stone** ('07) were selected as War Eagle Plainsmen, university ambassadors.

Colorado State

The chapter was first in grades with a 3.31 GPA for the spring 2008 semester.

Efforts have begun to renovate study rooms and the common areas in time for the chapter house to re-open in fall 2008.

Guelph

The one-year-old chapter recruited a spring 2008 new member class of seven men and completed an adopt-a-highway clean-up project. The chapter placed first in the College of Agriculture's pancake flipping contest.

Idaho

The University of Idaho recognized the chapter for their efforts and contributions in dealing with medical emergencies and assisting students in need during the 2007-08 academic year. FarmHouse was one of three fraternities commended for their efforts during the annual student achievement awards on campus.

Illinois

The chapter was named the outstanding fraternity for 2008 in addition to being recognized for most improved GPA and excellence in: risk management, internal operations, external operations, outstanding scholarship and house

corporation. **Pat Justice**, was named outstanding chapter advisor, **Blake Ruebush** ('06) was named outstanding president and **Bruce Frank** ('05) was named an outstanding senior.

Iowa State

Daniel Fischer ('06) was elected president of Iowa State University's student body government. The chapter placed third in Greek Week.

Kansas State

Fifty-seven active members completed a total of 187 hours of community service during the fraternity's Promise of Service Week in April.

At the Kansas State Greek Awards banquet, **Clint Blaas** ('05) was named an outstanding graduating senior, **Matt Begnoche** ('05) was honored as top fraternity chapter president and **Andrew Harris** ('07) was named outstanding fraternity man of the year.

Bret Hanson ('08), **Kurt Olsen** ('08),

NC State Chapter receives honors for positive community contributions

On May 1, the North Carolina State FarmHouse Chapter was recognized by the North Carolina State University (NCSU) campus police department as the first recipient of the RED PIG Award. The award is part of the university's inaugural Responsible Behavior Initiative (RBI).

Receiving the award from police chief Tom Younce was chapter president, **Johnny Behrooz** (NC '05) during an on campus ceremony. Attending the presentation were 11 brothers of the chapter and advisor **J.B. Braxton** (NC '98), in addition to members of the campus police squad and men of Sigma Pi fraternity, the first runner-up winner.

As part of the North Carolina State University police department's mission, officers provide education outside of the classroom. To further this mission, the RBI program was developed, the first of its kind at a major university. This proactive initiative promotes positive interactions between the campus community and local police departments, by emphasizing responsibility to oneself, to others and to the core values of the university. The overall goal of this initiative is to provide social

education for what it means to be a responsible community member.

Members of NCSU campus police observe student behavior-conduct at all hours of the day and at a variety of venues and events. When an officer sees students or organizations demonstrating responsible behaviors, that officer has the ability to recognize it by issuance of a citation of recognition.

Recognized behavior includes: volunteering as designated drivers, highway clean up, resolving conflicts and helping to maintain a positive-peaceful environment on and off campus. At the end of each spring semester, Greek organizations compete for the RED PIG Award. The organization with the highest number of positive events and the lowest number of negative events for the school year is recognized.

The award stands for:

R – reducing negative behaviors by rewarding positive behaviors;
E – education through communication;
D – and directing issues back to those responsible.
P – partnerships between Greek organizations and the community;
I – introspection and self-control;
G – and governance of student behavior through participation in responsible organizations.



NCSU chapter president Johnny Behrooz (left) and chapter members receive the RED PIG Award from campus police chief Tom Younce (center) and Lt. R.W. Potts (far right).

Kyler Knobbe ('08) and **Gabe Cox** ('07) were named Greek ambassadors.

Andy Gigstad ('07), **Kellen Begnoche** ('07), **Luke Finley** ('08) and **Andrew Harris** ('07) were inducted into Order of Omega. **Sam Fahrenholtz** ('07) was an honorable mention recipient of the Goldwater National Scholarship, which provides scholarships to students pursuing careers in math, sciences and engineering.

Matt Ebert ('06) and **Taylor Symons** ('06) were inducted into Blue Key honor society. **Andrew Harris** ('07) and **Heath Vincent** ('07) were selected for Chimes junior class honorary. **Alan Winter** ('08) is a recent inductee into Silver Key, the sophomore class service honor society.

Kentucky

The chapter placed third in Greek Sing and completed a day-long community service project building playground equipment at Camp KYSOC. The men of the chapter paired with the women of Alpha Gamma Delta for a joint-philanthropy, Band Jam, with proceeds benefiting the American Heart Association.

Minnesota

The chapter assisted with the State FFA convention. **Dan Helvig** ('07) and **Nate Janssen** ('07) currently serve on the state FFA officer team and new Minnesota state FFA president, **Derek Mulhern** ('09) is a member of the fall 2008 new member class for the chapter. The chapter placed third in grades among fraternities on campus with a 3.14 GPA, while the new member class placed first with a 3.54.

Mississippi State

Improvements were made to the chapter house this spring including replacing the roof and installing wireless internet.

Missouri

The chapter took first place overall in the Rockin' Against Multiple Sclerosis philanthropy in February. The men of the chapter also had a successful year on the intramural field placing first in basketball, sand volleyball and flag football; with second place finishes in basketball, flag football and indoor volleyball.

Nebraska

Evan Luxon ('07) and **Jason Eden** ('07) were named scholars for 2008-09 in Tau

Beta Pi, national engineering honorary.

Oklahoma State

Jered Davidson ('07) is a 2008 Harry Truman Scholarship national finalist, which are awarded to college juniors who show leadership potential and have an interest in government or public service.

Patrick Stein ('05) was named an OSU top ten senior. The chapter received the Dean Troxell Award for outstanding fraternity for the 34th time in the award's 39-year history. The chapter was recognized for outstanding community service, campus relations, campus involvement and scholarship, as the men of the chapter achieved a 3.44 GPA for spring 2008.

Purdue

The chapter held a hair auction in support of brother **John Romine** ('05), who is undergoing treatments for Hodgkin's Lymphoma. The event raised \$13,000 to help offset the costs of his treatment at Riley Children's Hospital in Indianapolis.

Eric Barnard ('05) was elected Purdue student body president. Barnard and **Josh Ratcliff** ('05) were inducted into Purdue University Mortar Board. **David Pyle** ('05) was announced as a member of Iron Key, Purdue's senior leadership honor society.

Texas Tech

The chapter was named Greek organization of the year during the annual Arbor Day celebration on campus. The men placed first in grades for the third straight semester. Alumni and current members celebrated the 30th anniversary of the chapter at their Founders' Day banquet held on April 19.

Troy

The chapter's annual Crawfish Boil and Mudfest philanthropy events raised over \$2,000 for Special Olympics. The chapter placed first in Greek Week.

Jared Sellers ('04) was named Greek man of the year for his service as a student. Chapter advisor **Ryan Spry** ('03) was honored as Mr. Greek for his service as a staff member supporting Greek life at Troy.

Western Kentucky

The chapter hosted its annual philanthropy, the **Paul Lane** ('95) memorial putt-putt golf tournament, in support of the American Asthma Association.

Oklahoma State and Troy receive NIC academic awards

The men of FarmHouse have once again proven they are leaders in the classroom. During the North-American Interfraternity Conference's (NIC) Annual Meeting, April 13-15, in Washington, D.C., the fraternal association recognized the outstanding achievements of member chapters from across the country. Two FarmHouse chapters, Oklahoma State and Troy, were among those recognized for exemplary academic achievement.

On their respective campuses, the chapters placed first among IFC fraternities in academic standing, in addition to maintaining a cumulative chapter grade point at least 50 base points higher than the campus all men's average. Troy receives the honor for its fall 2006 performance and Oklahoma State for the spring 2007 semester.

"These academic awards show that fraternities are connected and committed to the academic missions of our host institutions. Fraternities are actively assisting with retention, education and high performance both in and out of the classroom," said Pete Smithisler, president and CEO of the NIC.

The NIC is comprised of 72 fraternal member organizations with approximately 6,000 chapters located on 800 campuses in the United States and Canada with 350,000 undergraduate members. Of these only 24 individual chapters achieved this high level of academic accomplishment during the award period, the fall 2006 or spring 2007 semesters.

Certificates were presented to Fraternity executive director, Chad Harris (IA '98), during the Laurel Wreath luncheon by Marc Katz, a member of Alpha Epsilon Pi and the chair of the NIC board of directors.

These certificates will be presented to the Oklahoma State and Troy chapters at Conclave.

The academic performance of the men of Oklahoma State and Troy is a true reflection of the value and importance of scholastic excellence within the Fraternity. Congratulations to our brothers for this impressive recognition.



2007-2008 Chapter Doane Award Winners

Established in 1947 by Founder D. Howard Doane (MO '05), the Doane Award is given to the outstanding senior of each chapter who is considered by his peers to have contributed the most to his chapter and his brothers. This is the only international award given to undergraduates in each chapter.

"The purpose of the Doane Award is to recognize appropriately those FarmHouse men who by their deeds put living reality in the Fraternity's major objective — FarmHouse, Builder of Men. The adoption of a slogan means little if it does not go beyond the coining of words. When a student decides to attend a university, he undertakes a program of self-improvement. A FarmHouse man goes farther for he knows that he who gives most, gains most.

Monuments are built throughout our land to honor those who have, under the stress of war and the heat of battle, offered their lives to help and save others. In contrast, this plaque will find a modest place in the corner of a room in a fraternity house. On it the names of those men, who have offered something of themselves to help others along with the quiet paths of everyday living, will be engraved. It will never become a monument to public heroes, but it will record the same spirit and motives that make heroes." — "Daddy" Doane

The International Fraternity is pleased to recognize the 2008 Doane Award recipients. The list includes each outstanding young man's future career or post-graduation plans.



**Founder D. Howard
"Daddy" Doane
(MO '05)**

Alberta

Justin Weiss ('04) is a dairy sales manager for Landmark Feeds in Alberta.

Arkansas

Grant Hunt ('05) is a financial advisor for Edward Jones in Fayetteville, Ark.

Auburn

Bryan Meyers ('05) is an engineer for Brasfield & Gorrie in Birmingham, Ala.

Colorado State

Luke Meier ('03) works in the wholesale sales division for Helena Chemical Co.

Guelph

Scott Cressman ('04) will pursue a master's degree in plant genetics and sciences at the University of Guelph.

Idaho

Todd Needs ('05) received his bachelor of science degree in chemistry.

Illinois

Bruce Frank ('05) is a marketing representative for John Deere in Moline, Ill.

Illinois State

Stephen Kinczyk ('04) is employed by Starcom MediaVest Group in Chicago, Ill.

Iowa State

Antwon Chavis ('05) is a phlebotomist for Plasma Services and plans to attend medical school in the fall of 2009.

Kansas State

Aaron Kaufman ('05) works for Geo

Probe as an engineer in Salina, Kan.

Kentucky

Sean Patterson ('06) plans to attend medical school.

Michigan State

Pieter Serne ('04) is working for Smithfield Beef Group in Wisconsin.

Minnesota

Eric Sawatzke ('03) will teach agricultural education in the fall at Marshall High School in Marshall, Minn.

Mississippi State

Kenny Houston ('06) is enrolled in graduate school at Mississippi State.

Missouri

Brandon Huffman ('05) will attend medical school.

Nebraska

Jeff Dannehl ('05) is working in information technology while completing his commercial pilot program.

New Mexico State

Clint Roof ('06) is enrolled in Kansas State's veterinary medicine program.

North Carolina State

Drew Parker ('06) will pursue a master's in agronomy at North Carolina State.

North Dakota State

Badger Koeplin ('03) is in the engineering management trainee program for Burlington, Northern, Santa Fe Railroad.

Oklahoma State

Jordan Moore ('05) will serve as an educational leadership consultant for FarmHouse International Fraternity.

Purdue

David Pyle ('05) will work on his family's farm this summer before beginning his career in the engineering field this fall.

South Dakota State

Ryan Tollefsrud ('03) will attend veterinary school at Kansas State University.

Tennessee

Matthew Backus ('05) is enrolled in graduate school at the University of Tennessee in animal science.

Texas A&M

Blaze Currie ('05) is in Iraq working for the Norman Borlaug Institute on sustainable agriculture development with the United States Department of Defense.

Texas Tech

Cory Robertson ('05) is enrolled in medical school at Texas Tech University.

Troy

Skot Montgomery ('05) is a youth minister in southern Alabama.

Western Kentucky

Stephen Cole ('05) works for Pro Systems in Bowling Green, Ky.

Wisconsin-Platteville

Ryan Seichter ('03) is a teacher and FFA advisor at Gilman High School.



Did you Miss the Alumni Training?

by **SETH ZILVERBERG** (SD '02)
Educational Leadership Consultant

"I'm ready to be done with FarmHouse," replied the graduating senior member of FarmHouse. The response took me aback — I had asked how he envisioned his role as a FarmHouse alumnus.

"You don't even want to come back for Founders' Day or alumni events?" I asked.

"Well, I'd come back for those, but I don't want to get too involved," he replied.

In his defense, I doubt this young man had considered his role as a FarmHouse alumnus prior to my question.

My own undergraduate experience did not provide any formal education on my role as an alumnus, so I might have been similarly unprepared. This failure of our chapters to properly transition members leads to thousands of alumni unsure of their roles in our organization. FarmHouse membership includes alumni as full members; the title "alumni member" is more

than an honor — it's a responsibility.

I cannot change your undergraduate experience to include education on responsibility as alumni. I will, however, ask all alumni to summon their qualities of ambition, service and excellence to better FH. Our undergraduates need your help, and as an alumnus you have something to offer. Some alumni are called to serve as association leaders, while others will provide skills in landscaping and still more can mentor undergraduates, setting an example young men can follow.


Alumni also play an important role in recruitment. For example, Rollie Deering (CO '65) keeps his eyes open for potential new members of FarmHouse. He sends the Colorado State Chapter names of scholarship winners attending CSU and has submitted names for other chapters. If Deering knows the student, he sends along contact information. When he does not know the man, Deering suggests names of FarmHouse alumni who might.



Every alumni member is a resource to recruitment. Who can you connect with — FFA advisors? church leaders? coaches? teachers? students? parents?

On more than one occasion I have heard alumni doubt their influence with students due to "old age." I disagree.

I place high value on the influence of our older alumni members. We live in a sad state if young men today will not take the time to listen to the wisdom of a man who has spent a lifetime living the FarmHouse values.

Alumni status confers both honor and responsibility upon the bearer. Please share your intellectual resources with our chapters as an example to follow. Your influence will shape tomorrow's alumni. 

WHO DO YOU KNOW?

Help recruit the next generation of FarmHouse men by sharing potential member names and information with our chapter vice presidents of recruitment.

ALBERTA – Mark Hagen
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AUBURN – Chris Wheeler
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COLORADO STATE – Sina Parsaye
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GUELPH – Cameron Lawrie
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My Life as an ... “American Idol”

A contestant on the recently concluded seventh season of “American Idol,” Kyle Ensley shares his story of being a part of the most popular television show in the world.

by KYLE ENSLEY (OK '06)

What’s the best way to become governor of Oklahoma someday? By building household name recognition on “American Idol” of course. Although he intends to pursue a career in public service, Kyle Ensley has always had a passion for music. The following article is his journey in pursuit of being America’s idol.

The Chance to Audition

As someone who appreciates and enjoys music, I became a fan of American Idol during the first season. Since then, I kicked around the idea of auditioning someday.

While interning last summer for U.S. Senator James Inhofe (R-OK) in Washington, D.C., I learned the American Idol auditions were coming to Dallas. I was to fly into Dallas concluding my internship the day of the auditions and I realized this was my chance to give it a try. The timing and location seemed perfect as Dallas is a few hours from my hometown of Valliant, Okla. I knew the opportunity might never be this close again.

My dad picked me up from the airport at midnight on August 3, we drove to Texas Stadium and I registered at 2:00 a.m. as contestant #20929. I was told to be in line by 6:00 a.m. After sleeping very little, we returned to the stadium and stood in line for two hours before the gates opened. Around 9:00 a.m. those waiting to audition were seated, but the waiting had just begun.

The Cattle Call

Known as the “cattle call” by the Idol staff, nearly 20,000 people crammed into long lines and section groups in the parking lots, concourses, seats and stairwells. The atmosphere was a buzz of activity with singing, humming, emotion and drama, as the masses practiced their songs, gave tips to one another, congratulated those who were selected and comforted those whose dreams were quickly dashed.

It was organized chaos. Assigned to the



Oklahoma State’s Kyle Ensley performs during Hollywood Week. Each year over 200,000 16 to 28 year-olds audition to be the next “American Idol.” Only 100 make it to the Hollywood Week.

last audition section, I waited the entire day to sing. Fortunately my dad stayed with me in the blazing heat for 15 hours and encouraged me to stay, even though I was tempted to leave several times. The audition process seemed ridiculous.

Initial auditions before a panel of Idol producers and staff only last 30 seconds. Finally, it was my turn. Hot, sweaty and tired from my late night flight, I entered the audition room. I mustered up the energy from somewhere, smiled and sang “Isn’t She Lovely” by Stevie Wonder and “More than Anyone” by Gavin Degraw. My 30 seconds were brief, but enough to impress the judges. I was selected to the next round!

I was shocked to learn how few advanced – perhaps the long, hot wait was worth it! I encountered several amazing singers who I felt were more talented than I, but regardless of how the producers make their decisions, I was thrilled.

Randy, Paula and Simon

After the initial audition, I returned to Dallas in October for the second round. I was invited to sing for Nigel Lythgoe, the executive producer of the show. After I finished, Nigel said when I entered the room he thought I wasn’t going to be very good, but instead I blew him away. He decided it was time for me to meet the show’s famous judges.

A few days later, I walked into the audition room and there they were, sitting in the familiar line-up, Randy Jackson, Paula Abdul and Simon Cowell.

Before I sang, we chatted and Paula said that she was optimistic about me and commented on how I smile a lot. From my audition profile, they knew of my interest in politics, and we joked about politicians. Simon asked, “Who do people compare your singing talents to?” I replied, “Josh Groban.” He remarked, “It must be because of your curly hair.”

For this important audition I selected “Somebody to Love” by Queen. The previous year, it was my winning song for Oklahoma State’s Spring Sing. I hoped it might showcase my talents and allow me to win once again.

When I finished, Simon immediately voted yes for me to go to Hollywood. Randy thought it was too much like a “glee club performance,” and he said no. My heart pounding, we turned and looked at Paula who paused, smiled and said, “Yes.”

I made it! I was heading to Hollywood!

Hollywood Week

Hollywood Week took place in November. Occurring the week before finals, I was so focused on school that I couldn’t really prepare. When I arrived in Hollywood and checked into my hotel room, there were a couple of girls in it. Evidently it had been double booked. The occupants were two contestants on the show. The cameras were rolling though, so when the segment aired it looked like I had girls in my room. The footage shown was taken a bit out of context – an example of

Hollywood spin.

Before Hollywood, as top 100 finalists we received a list of 40 older pop songs to pick from for our audition. I chose "Love Grows" by Edison Lighthouse because I thought no one else would select it. Sure enough, I was the only person who sang it. After singing, the judges got into an argument about my performance. Paula liked it, but Randy and Simon did not. They argued, Simon blew up and stomped off the set. I wasn't sure what to do, but all I could think about was how embarrassing it was going to be when this scene aired!

Because I did not receive a majority of votes, I had to sing again the next day. I chose "You Raise Me Up" by Josh Groban.

All three judges approved and I received a "yes" from each. At the end of the day the audition pool was whittled to 70 contestants. However, it was time for another cut.

We all sat on the stage together, and each of us stood up one at a time to learn our fate. When my name was called, Simon, in his traditional cranky tone said, "We debated about you for a long time, but you made it."

Following the Top 50 announcement, the remaining contestants stayed for an extra day for background checks. The day consisted of personality tests and in-depth interviews from psychiatrists and investigators to find any skeletons in our closet preventing us from continuing. Thankfully, I don't have any so felt comfortable answering their extensive questions.

After the waiting, auditions, trips, hotel stays and interviews, we were allowed to go home. We would return to Hollywood in January for the Top 24 announcement.

The Green Mile

During my fall auditions I received a Pickering Fellowship from the U.S. State Department – a scholarship for graduate school and the opportunity to pursue a career in the foreign service, my dream job. I wanted Hollywood, but knew I could not do both. I auditioned for fun and I never really thought I would make it this far.

When I arrived in Hollywood in January, I came down with the flu. Every time I was shown on TV I looked sad. I wasn't sad, I just felt bad because I was sick – the Hollywood spin got me again.

The Top 24 announcement is called the "green mile." Each of the top 50 contestants makes the nervous walk in to see the

judges to learn our fate. I waited all day (again) in the holding room.

As other contestants came out cheering or crying, it became evident I was one of the very last to possibly make the cut.

Colton Berry and I were left to see the judges, but only one spot remained. It came down to this. We made the "green mile" walk into the audition room together and sat down. Paula broke the news that Colton made the cut. I was out.

On screen it appeared I was disappointed, but actually I felt a sense of relief. The worry, struggle to balance the schedule with my academics and endless waiting was over now. I knew I would not have to decide between "American Idol" and my Pickering Fellowship.

Simon said he was very disappointed I didn't make it. I had the chance to speak with him privately. He said, "Kyle, you have a very special gift that America would have enjoyed." I was humbled.

Life After Idol

Since the show, I have been blessed to do some amazing things. I sang on the "Ellen DeGeneres Show," as Ellen was a big fan of mine during the audition episodes. I was interviewed on "Good Morning America". I was given a makeover on "Extra!" (which I didn't know I needed). And, I performed in an American Idol concert in Tulsa, Okla., with some of my fellow former contestants.

The blogs, news articles and letters of support from fans across the world – even as far as Pakistan! – have been amazing.

However, I was very excited to return to Oklahoma State this semester. I missed my friends and brothers. It felt great being back home at FarmHouse where I could resume my normal life as a student and active member of the chapter. My brothers were very supportive during the entire ride and I am forever appreciative.

It was a wonderful journey and an unforgettable experience. Who knows, I may just audition again!

Kyle Ensley (OK '06) recently completed his junior year at Oklahoma State. He is a native of Valliant, Okla. He was one of seven undergraduates selected for the FarmHouse Foundation's 2008 Power of 7 Seminar. Now that he's not America's idol, he will continue his studies in political science and pursue a career in the foreign service.



Behind the Scenes

A few secrets viewers might not know or see.



Ensley (left) pictured with the 2008 "American Idol" winner David Cook and other Top 50 contestants Alaina Whitaker and Colton Swan while traveling through the Tulsa airport.

1. We stand around and wait, a lot!

At my first audition I waited 15 hours to perform, and every audition thereafter was an all-day event.

2. We don't hang out with Paula, Randy and Simon.

On TV it appears we interact with the judges and know them well. However, we only interacted with them when we sang in the audition room.

3. We are told what to sing.

Prior to the Top 50 cut, contestants received a list of 40 songs to choose from for Hollywood Week.

4. "Idol" is taped over several months.

Although the show's season begins in January, all auditions are taped in the fall. My Dallas audition was in October and Hollywood Week occurred in November.

5. I might try out again.

Performers who make the Top 50 are allowed to try out again next year, but those who make the Top 24 cannot. I'm still deciding if I'll try it again!

Did the best David win?

I pulled for David Cook to win because he is from the Midwest, and I got to know him well during Hollywood Week.

However, I actually thought David Archuleta would win due to the large fan following he had during the season.

I think both Davids will have successful music careers ahead of them. I'm sure we will hear them both on the radio this time next year!



Second Power of 7 a Success

FarmHouse alumni and undergraduates gather for a unique weekend of brotherhood, mentoring and industry discussions



"I went around the world in one day!" is how one attendee described the 2nd Annual Power of 7 Seminar held April 24-26 in Santa Fe, N.M., hosted by the FarmHouse Foundation.

The Power of 7 Seminar, a first class think-tank on our fraternity and the nation, gathered alumni and seven undergraduate leaders for brotherhood, life-long learning and fellowship. Trustees and Power of 7 donors shared their industry expertise to give a snapshot of the state-of-the-world on topics ranging from agribusiness to food and animal safety to e-commerce to biotechnology to the housing and credit crisis and much more. Participants also had time to enjoy the wonderful sights, sounds and food of the Southwest.

"I found the seminar to be professionally very interesting due to the broad range of expertise and the openness of sharing that took place. It was also very interesting to get the student perspectives on university life today. The topics ranged from commodity prices to nuclear energy which made for a fun learning environment," said Trustee Jim Tobin (IA '76).

"This is such a unique opportunity to build even more faith from your FarmHouse experience as you learn from the lives, knowledge and wisdom of our most prominent alumni. The informal for-

mat encourages the engagement of all and allows interaction with some of our talented undergraduates. This seminar builds your hope for our future and collectively this is truly a great moment in time for all," said immediate past Chairman Randy Linville (KS '73).

"This seminar is a once in a lifetime experience to learn from alumni who are leaders in their fields. It makes you truly appreciate FarmHouse and everything we stand for," said Chad Hall (NE '06).

A special thank you to the Power of 7 donors who helped make the weekend possible: Robert Lewis (KS '58), Jim Herbert (TN '61) and Dick Kruse (KS '63).

Also, thank you to Bob Off (CO '64) and his wife, Linda, of Santa Fe, who helped host the weekend.

Interested in attending 2009? Save the date — the 3rd Annual Power of 7 Seminar will be held April 23-26, 2009, in Palm Springs, Calif. Alumni who make an Annual Fund gift of \$7,000 or more during the 2008-2009 fiscal year are invited to attend this memorable and impactful Seminar and have the opportunity to mentor one of FarmHouse's top undergraduates during the weekend.

Contact Allison Rickels (800-722-1905 or Allison@FarmHouse.org) or Bob Off (Bob@FarmHouse.org) for details.



TRUSTEE NEWS

At the spring board meeting in Santa Fe, N.M., new officers were elected to lead the Board of Trustees for the FarmHouse Foundation.

Art Heggen (IA '66) has become chairman succeeding **Randy Linville** (KS '73), who is CEO of Scoular Company in Overland Park, Kan. Art is retired executive vice president for Assurant Solutions/ Assurant Specialty Property and lives in Miami, Fla.

Ryan Downs (NE '88), now chairman-elect, is senior vice president of global customer service and operations for eBay, Inc. in Saratoga, Calif.

Jim Lodoen (ND '79) was appointed fundraising committee chair and is partner and lawyer with Lindquist & Vennum in Minneapolis, Minn.

Don Ferguson (KS '63) was appointed finance committee chair and is executive vice president and chief operating officer for EnergX, a nuclear energy consultant firm. He lives in Summit County, Colo.

All of the above individuals will serve two-year terms as officers for the FarmHouse Foundation.

The meeting concluded **Rick Brock's** (PU '71) six-year term as a Foundation Trustee and his role as finance committee chair. Rick is president and founder of Brock Associates, a highly respected commodity-marketing consulting firm in Milwaukee, Wis. He and his wife, Cathy, live in Mequon, Wis.

In addition, the Foundation is pleased to announce that **Matthew Calavan** (OK '84) and **James Herbert** (TN '61) have joined the Board of Trustees. Trustees can serve up to two, three-year terms.

Matt is general manager of Beaver Toyota, one of the top Toyota dealerships in the Southwest. He, his wife Katie and their young family reside in Santa Fe, N.M.

Jim is president, CEO and co-founder of Neogen Corporation which develops, manufactures and markets a diverse line of products dedicated to food and animal safety. He and his wife, Judi, reside in Lansing, Mich.



EIGHT ALUMNI JOIN TOP HONOR ROLL CLUBS



*Clark
Hanson*



*Robert
Lewis*



*Randy
Linville*



*Jeffrey
Topp*



*Vincent
Ulstad*

The FarmHouse Foundation would like to deeply thank and applaud **Randy Linville** (KS '73) for joining the Century Club, the Foundation's highest accumulative giving society of \$100,000 and above. Randy is president and CEO of the Scoular Company, an agribusiness company that buys, sells, stores and transports grain, food and feed ingredients worldwide. Randy is immediate past chairman of the FarmHouse Foundation and has served as a Trustee for six years. He and his wife, Debbie, reside in Leawood, Kan.

The Foundation is honored to welcome **Robert Lewis** (KS '58) to the Doane Club for accumulative gifts of \$50,000 to \$99,999. Robert is the retired owner and operator of Lewis Land and Livestock. He trades on the commodity and stock markets and travels often to check on his various business ventures across the country. He served as a Foundation Trustee from 1980 to 1992 and is actively involved with the Kansas State chapter. Robert has supported and participated in both of the

Foundation's Power of 7 Seminars. He lives in Lawrence, Kan.

Jeffrey Topp (ND '79) joins the H.K. Wilson Club, for accumulative gifts between \$25,000 and \$49,999. Jeff is the owner/operator of T-T Ranch. He is a producer-director for the Growers for Biotechnology Association in North Dakota, a county director to the North Dakota Wheat Commission and is on the Board of Directors of Dakota Grain. He and his wife, Jan, live in Grace City, N.D. Jeff's two sons, **Jason** (KS '05) and **Justin** (ND '06), are FarmHouse undergraduates.

The Foundation's 1905 Club, for accumulative gifts between \$10,000 and \$24,999, welcomes five new members:

Frederick Bliss (NE '57) has had a 40-year career as a plant breeder, teacher, researcher, author and administrator. He is professor emeritus at the University of California in Davis, where he chaired the department of pomology. He is a semi-retired administrator for special projects with Seminis Vegetable Seeds, Inc. and is

active in the plant breeding world. He and his wife, Mary, live in Davis. (*not pictured*)

Clark Hanson (MN '61) is professor emeritus at South Dakota State University and was recently awarded the National Association of Agricultural Educators' (NAAE) Lifetime Achievement Award. He received the Master Builder of Men award in 1986, is a former International Board president and is actively involved with the SDSU chapter and association. He and his wife, Lyla, reside in Brookings, S.D.

Darl Snyder (IA '42) is the retired director of international development at the University of Georgia. Snyder served as the first full-time executive director of FarmHouse Fraternity from 1958-1969. He is a Master Builder of Men recipient and served on the Foundation Board of Trustees. With this gift, he established the Darl E. and Florence H. Snyder New Horizons Fund to support study abroad programs, special projects and student international travel opportunities. He lives in Atlanta, Ga. (*not pictured*)

Vincent L. Ulstad (ND '78) is senior technical services representative and biologist for BASF Corporation, the world's leading chemical company. He participates in the development of new crop protection products for BASF. He and his wife, Jacqueline, live in Fargo, N.D.

W. Shayne Woodard (TT '85) is a lobbyist for several agricultural organizations in Texas. He and his wife, Sabrina, reside in Austin, Texas. (*not pictured*)



MEMORIALS & RECOGNITIONS

The following memorial and honor gifts were made between March 1 to June 1, 2008.

In memory of ...

DWAYNE ADAMS
(NE '64)

Gary Wahlgren (NE '64)

RICHARD BRUENE
(IA '36)

C.J. Gauger (IA '37)

GERRITT FITZGERALD
(MI '37)

*Rosalind Ellingsworth
Bill & Nova Groom*

TOM GREER (NE '63)
Tom Thurber (NE '60)

CURTIS MIDDLETON
(PU '52)
Jeanne Middleton

ERNEST STEVENSON
(IL '40)
Charles Martin (IL '48)

BRUCE THOMSON
(IA '72)

Bob Off (CO '64)

In honor of...
BILL DOWNS (KY '51)

Joan Dwyer Downs

BOB OFF (CO '64)
Nell Krantz



**We are only as
strong as the
support of our
Alumni...**

**Become a member of the
Chairman's Club today.** Your annual gift of \$1,905 to the Foundation's Annual Fund will help ensure the future of FarmHouse and its educational programs and scholarships for all FarmHouse undergraduates that follow.

For more information contact the FarmHouse Foundation at (800) 722-1905 or FarmHouse.org/foundation.

CONCLAVE 2008

DEEP IN THE HEART OF FARMHOUSE

AUGUST 13-17, 2008 • LUBBOCK, TEXAS

See y'all in west Texas! FarmHouse Fraternity is headed deep into the heart of Texas — to the 45th Biennial Conclave. From Wednesday, Aug. 13 to Sunday, Aug. 17, FarmHouse brothers and guests will gather on the plains of west Texas, as our biennial convention is brought to the Lonestar State for the first time.

We've planned some Texas-sized fun that is not to be missed! You'll have the opportunity to enjoy legendary barbecue, experience the rich history and heritage of ranching and learn about the cotton industry through special tours of the region, all in the name of FarmHouse.

Be sure to take advantage of the sights and sounds of Lubbock and Texas Tech University. From the Buddy Holly Museum to the National Ranching Heritage Museum to the American Wind Power Museum to the sounds of Pat Green — Lubbock has much to offer.



In addition to the local attractions and entertainment, you won't want to miss the Fraternity's educational programming for undergraduate members and alumni. From personal leadership to chapter improvement, *StrengthsQuest* to career networking, Conclave offers a unique opportunity for FarmHouse men to learn from one another.

Additionally, the Fraternity will recognize outstanding alumni and chapter achievement as four brothers will receive the Master Builder of Men award and chapters for outstanding programming. Who will win this year's Ruby Cup? Join us to find out! The Holiday Inn Park Plaza is our official hotel and we've arranged a special group rate. Just minutes from the Lubbock International airport and the Texas Tech campus, the hotel will be our headquarters for the week.

To register or for more information, visit FarmHouse.org or contact us at (800) 722-1905. We hope to see y'all there!



Exemplary Alumni Honored as 2008 Master Builder of Men

Four alumni of FarmHouse International Fraternity will be honored with the 2008 Master Builder of Men Award, the highest honor bestowed by the International Fraternity.

The biennium class includes: **L. Myles Carpenter** (TN '59), **Douglas D. Sims** (IL '65), **John J. Toy** (NE '77) and **Dwight D. Raab** (PU '80).

"These men embody the spirit of FarmHouse," said Bryce Freeman (IA '93), International president, in announcing the 2008 recipients. "They are men of the highest character, who are living examples of what it means to be a Builder of Men."

Chad Harris (IA '98), executive director, added, "Our Fraternity would not be where it is today without the exemplary service of these brothers. Their collective contributions are countless in bettering our brotherhood's lasting legacy."

The Master Builder of Men Award was established in 1950 by the International Executive Board. The award is the highest honor given to an alumni member from the International Fraternity. It recognizes and publicly acknowledges the brother's unselfish leadership and service to his fellow men, both within the Fraternity and beyond.

Neither position, nor wealth, nor occupation enters into consideration for the award, but simply his contributions in helping others and living the values of the Fraternity as a Builder of Men.

Since its creation, only 113 men have received the honor of being named a Master Builder.

The recipients will be honored during the Fraternity's 43rd Biennial Conclave, Aug. 13-17, 2008, at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas.

Congratulations to these brothers for receiving the Fraternity's most prestigious award.



Myles Carpenter (TN '59)

- Resides in Starkville, Miss.
- Retired professor and director of dairy science, Mississippi State University Extension
- Tennessee chapter charter member, 1959
- Mississippi State chapter advisor, 1964-99; building campaign chair

Doug Sims (IL '65)

- Resides in Keystone, Colo.
- Retired chief executive officer, COBANK
- Foundation Board of Trustees, 1998-2004; chairman, 2002-04
- Foundation Philanthropy Laureate & Acorn Awards
- Campaign 2005, campaign committee and volunteer
- Inaugural Power of Seven Seminar donor and participant, 2007

John Toy (NE '77)

- Resides in Waverly, Neb.
- Senior agronomist, Grain, Forage and Bioenergy Research Unit, United States Department of Agriculture
- Nebraska association board member, 1989-98; president, 1992-96; secretary, 1996-98; building fund campaign chair
- Darl E. Snyder Award, 1989, 1993 and 1999

Dwight Raab (PU '80)

- Resides in St. Joseph, Ill.
- State coordinator, Illinois Farm Business Farm Management Assoc., University of Illinois; licensed appraiser & real estate broker
- FarmHouse International Board of Directors, 1998-2006; president, 2000-06; centennial committee chair, 2005
- Illinois association board member, 1984-2000; treasurer, 1990-97; president, 1997-99; foundation council chair, 2006-present
- Conclave, Leadership Academy, RLC, consultation volunteer
- Darl E. Snyder Award



Eight Seek International Board of Directors Seats

Eight brothers are candidates nominated for the four open seats on the International Board of Directors. They include: **Brent S. Bible** (PU '93), **Lance A. Burditt** (MO '94), **R. Heath Cheek** (TT '00), **M. Ross Cully** (MO '00), **Shawn G. Eagleburger** (IA '02), **Brian H. Hogue** (TAM '05), **Dale W. Pracht** (KS '92) and **Mark E. Reiman** (SD '02).

The International Board of Directors is the governing body of the International Fraternity and its executive director. The Board's governance provides oversight and guidance on the strategic initiatives of FarmHouse. Election of board members occurs at the Fraternity business meeting held during Conclave. Board terms are four years and members may serve two consecutive terms.

The following is a listing of the nominees. All voting delegates will receive a copy of the nominee's supporting materials. Information about each candidate is also available for review online at FarmHouse.org.

Brent S. Bible (PU '93)

Occupation: Branch manager and commodities broker, Lowe Trading, LLC in Lafayette, Ind.

Fraternity involvement: Purdue chapter advisor, 1996-present; Conclave, Regional Leadership Conference (RLC) and Leadership Academy participant and volunteer; chapter consultation and association/advisor visit volunteer; 2002 Conclave committee; Purdue chapter: house manager and secretary



Brent Bible

R. Heath Cheek (TT '00)

Occupation: Litigation attorney, Hunton & Williams, P.C. in Dallas, Texas

Fraternity involvement: Texas Tech chapter: president, vice president, vice present of finance and philanthropy chair; International Outstanding Chapter President; Snyder Award; Doane Award; Conclave, RLC and Leadership Academy participant and volunteer; Chapter consultation visit volunteer



Heath Cheek

M. Ross Cully (MO '00)

Occupation: Co-founder and senior partner, The Harvest Group in Fayetteville, Ark.

Fraternity involvement: Arkansas association: board member, 2003-06 and president, 2006; chapter advisor, 2003-2005; chapter consultation and association/advisor visit volunteer; Conclave, RLC and Leadership Academy participant and volunteer; Missouri chapter: president; Doane Award; International Outstanding Chapter President



Ross Cully

Lance A. Burditt (MO '94)

Occupation: Associate director, Osborn & Barr Communications in St. Louis, Mo.

Fraternity involvement: Missouri association: board member, 2003-08 and president, 2005-08; Regional Leadership Conference volunteer; Missouri chapter: president and social chair



Lance Burditt

Shawn G. Eagleburger (IA '02)

Occupation: Assistant director of Greek Affairs, Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kan.

Fraternity involvement: FH International educational leadership consultant, 2005-2006; consultation and association/advisor visit volunteer; FarmHouse Fraternity Ritual review committee; Iowa State chapter: vice president of recruitment, vice president and director of risk management; Doane Award; Conclave, RLC and Leadership Academy participant and volunteer; 2004 Conclave committee



Shawn Eagleburger

Brian H. Hogue (TAM '05)

Occupation: Staff assistant, The White House National Economic Council in Arlington, Va.

Fraternity involvement: Texas A&M chapter: president and house manager; Conclave, RLC, Leadership Academy and Foundation Power of Seven participant; International Outstanding Chapter President; Arizona State interest group: founder and president



Brian Hogue

Dale W. Pracht (KS '92)

Occupation: Assistant professor, Community Based Organizational Systems, University of Florida in Gainesville, Fla.

Fraternity involvement: Founder, Texas A&M Chapter, 2002; Texas A&M chapter advisor, 2002-2007; Texas A&M association secretary/treasurer, 2002-2007; Conclave, RLC and Leadership Academy participant and volunteer; Chapter consultation and association/advisor visit volunteer



Dale Pracht

Mark E. Reiman (SD '02)

Occupation: Agronomic research manager, Monsanto Company in Waterville, Kan.

Fraternity involvement: Doane Award; South Dakota State chapter: director of new member education and scholarship chair



Mark Reiman

ALUMNI NEWS

Idaho

Richard Naskali ('70), a retired professor of botany at the University of Idaho, traveled to South Georgia Island off the coast of Antarctica. He encountered seven of 17 known varieties of penguins.

Peter Wagner ('74) is the recipient of the U.S. Forest Service's national technical engineer of the year award. Wagner is an engineer with the U.S. Forest Service and has been involved with the construction of over 60 roads and trail bridges during his 30-year career in the Northwest. He and his wife, Shelley, live in Everett, Wash.

Illinois

Douglas Sims ('65), retired chief executive officer of COBANK, was inducted into the Cooperative Hall of Fame. The induction ceremony took place at the National Press Club on April 30, 2008. This is the cooperative community's highest honor recognizing those who have made "heroic" contributions to the enterprise.

Iowa State

Owen J. Newlin ('50) received the 2008 True and Valiant Award from the ISU Foundation for his commitment to "promoting philanthropy in industry and local communities and supporting education."

Maynard Hogberg ('64) has been chair of the department of animal science since 2003 and is leading the effort to build the new ISU Dairy Farm. The complex is 27 acres and will milk 450 cows.

Kansas State

Brendan Gleason ('03) is a design engineer with InSite Group, Inc. in Kansas City. He resides in Lee's Summit, Mo.

Missouri

Justin Kays ('01) is residing in Budapest, Hungary and started an international branding and communications firm in Hong Kong, called Axelera Media.

Nebraska

Wayne Keim ('42) was honored as a "Legend of Agronomy" at the Purdue University department of agronomy's 100th anniversary. Keim taught genetics at Purdue from 1956 to 1975. He and his wife, Joyce, live in Ft. Collins, Colo.

Clayton Yeutter ('49) was presented the 2007 Distinguished Nebraskan award by the Washington-based Nebraska Society.

The award is the society's highest honor given annually to a Nebraskan for their professional achievements and contributions to the state of Nebraska and beyond.

Stan Matzke ('53) and his wife, Dorothy, have planted 7,000 trees on their farm. As the executive vice president of the Nebraska Bankers Association, he started a program whereby local banks gave free trees to their customers resulting in nearly 60,000 distributed trees.

North Dakota State

Ryan Mayer ('87) and **Randy Green** ('87) were featured in an article in *Agweek*. The article focused on their personal connection and the support each provided during personal battles with cancer, including helping with the annual Green family beet harvest and their time together in FarmHouse. Mayer is a senior credit analyst with COBANK in Fargo, N.D.

Oklahoma State

Bill Bennett ('49) received the 2007 outstanding fundraising professional award from the Lubbock chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) in conjunction with AFP's National Philanthropy Day.

Jerry Stritzke ('80) was named CEO of Coach, Inc. on March 17, 2008. Previously serving as COO for Limited Brands and co-leader of Victoria's Secret in Columbus, Ohio, he is now based out of Coach's New York office. Coach is a leading marketer of high-end, modern accessories including handbags, brief cases and purses.

Purdue

Samuel D. Moffitt ('77) is Exel Co-op's Swine Production Manager. He resides in Carroll County, Ind. and was recently inducted into the Carroll County Agriculture Hall of Fame.

South Dakota State

Jim Faulstich ('69) was recognized in the *Dakota Farmer* for his significant conservation achievement. He runs a 350 cow-calf operation, practices no-till farming on 800 acres and operates a hunting enterprise in Hyde County, S.D.

Washington State

Marc Hildesheim ('02) is the north region trails specialist with the Idaho Parks and Recreation in Couer d'Alene.

OBITUARIES

The following obituaries are notices received by FarmHouse International between January 1 and May 15, 2008.

Arkansas

Dennis Hedge ('77). A veterinarian in Wickes, Ark., Hedge died June 11, 1999.

Cal-Poly Pomona

Homer D. Fausch ('82). He was a founding faculty member of the animal science department at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. He had a 26-year career as a professor and as the director of research. He lived in Northfield, Minn. He died Jan. 1, 2008 at the age of 88.

Clemson

Michael Colwell ('95). He was a founding member of the Clemson Chapter. He worked in ministry at North Point Community Church in Alpharetta, Ga. He died May 4, 2008 at the age of 32.

Illinois

J. George Smith ('39). He was a dairy farmer and Holstein breeder in Oswego, Ill. He died Feb. 7, 2008. He was 90.

Howard C. Hextell ('42). He was the retired owner of H&F Stone Co. and resided in Newark, Ill. He died in 2006.

Robert E. Brandes ('46). He served in the U.S. Army during World War II and arrived on the beaches of Omaha and Normandy during D-Day. He farmed for 46 years and was a DeKalb seed corn dealer for 25 years in Streator, Ill. He died March 18, 2008, at age 83.

Donald Jessen ('55). Following service in the Army, he spent his career as an optometrist in Girard, Ill. Jessen was active with the Kiwanis Club, Masonic Lodge, Chamber of Commerce, Farm Bureau and his church. He died Feb. 9, 2005, at 74.

Iowa State

Richard K. Bruene ('36). He served in the U.S. Army during World War II. He farmed for 50 years in Gladbrook, Iowa. He was inducted into the Iowa 4-H Hall of Fame. He died April 21, 2008, at age 90.

Max H. Henryson ('38). He spent 33 years assisting farmers as a FHA administrator in central and southwest Iowa. He was a sheep breeder and producer, winning state and national awards as a young man. He was 96 and lived in Iowa City, Iowa. He died Feb. 11, 2008.

Joseph E. Roewe ('40). He was the owner and operator of the 125-year old Roewe family farm in Pocahontas County, Iowa. He was very active with his church, served as a 4-H leader and was former chairman of the Pocahontas County Democrats. He died Jan. 5, 2008 at 85.

John P. Miller ('42). He co-owned and managed the Peterson Sheep and Cattle Company. He was past president of the Lamb Feeders Association and the National Livestock and Meat Board. He was a long-time 4-H leader, active in his church and a master gardener. Miller resided in Urbandale, Iowa, and was 89. He died Jan. 27, 2008.

George W. Lancaster ('48). He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He retired from Farmland Industries in Kansas City, Mo. in 1988. He died May 7, 2008, at age 84.

Richard C. Gray ('51). He was retired professor and head of the animal science department at the University of Wisconsin, River Falls. He volunteered with the National Park Service in the Southwest and worked on international research projects through Kansas State University in Botswana. He died March 21, 2008.

Kansas State

Jean W. Scheel ('32). He was a retired administrator with the Oregon State University Extension Service and lived in Albany, Ore. He died Feb. 19, 2008, at 96.

Michigan State

Gerritt W. Fitzgerald ('39). His career working for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in Chicago, Washington, Philadelphia and Grand Rapids, spanned four decades. He was proud of his rural upbringing and agricultural roots, which showed in his love of the outdoors, gardening and antique tractors. He resided in Grass Lake, Mich. He died Jan. 17, 2008, at 90.

Gustaf P. Hultman ('42). After service in the U.S. Navy during World War II, he spent a 38-year career with the National Park Service in North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. He lived in Canonsburg, Penn. and died on Feb. 28, 2008, at age 88.

Fred Pugsley ('47). He was a fruit grower in Paw Paw, Mich. Pugsley served on the board of directors of the Federal Land Bank Association. He was a member

of the National Grape Cooperative Association and received the association's Leadership Award for his service to the industry. He was recognized in 1999 by the Michigan State Horticulture Society with the Distinguished Grower Service Award. He was 82. He died Jan. 9, 2008.

Louis Hamilton ('51). He was a farmer in Monmouth, Ore. He died in 2006.

Minnesota

Gunder Moe ('42). He resided in Laguna Hills, Calif. He died Aug. 22, 2007.

Harvey Oen ('48). He resided in Thief River Falls, Minn. He died in 2006.

Marvin B. Hanson ('62). He lived in Kennedy, Minn. No other information available.

James A. Wittwer ('74). He was a farmer in Redwood Falls, Minn. No other information available.

Mississippi State

Paul R. Daughtery ('66). He was a cattle rancher in Arkadelphia, Ark. He died in March 2005.

Missouri

Ralph Froeschle ('39). He lived in Marionville, Mo. He died Aug. 1, 2007.

Wilbert W. Thomas ('49). After service in World War II in the U.S. Navy, he had a 31-year career as a specialist with University of Missouri Extension Service. He resided in Springfield, Mo. and died March 22, 2008 at age 83.

James C. Knorpp ('63). From Pleasant Hill, Mo., he died in September 1993.

Morehead State

Richard Willis ('90). He was a teacher at Greenup County Technical Center in Greenup, Ky. He died March 24, 2008. He was 36.

Nebraska

Gordon L. Hobert ('34). He resided in Estes Park, Co. He died Nov. 18, 2007.

Martin L. Minthorn ('42). No other information available.

Paul C. Kruger ('50). He resided in Fort Calhoun, Neb. He died in 2005.

Marvin E. Coffey ('53). He was a retired pastor with the United Methodist Church. He lived in Aurora, Neb. and died on July 21, 2007.

R. Chase Allred ('55). He resided in Provo, Utah. No other details available.

LeRoy J. Asher ('63). He was the retired editor and publisher for the American Shorthorn Association. He resided in Omaha and died in October 2007 at 63.

Thomas V. Greer ('63). He was associate professor of agricultural economics in the department of agriculture and national resources at the University of Tennessee, Martin. He died April 2, 2008.

Dwayne E. Adams ('64). He served as a captain of the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam Conflict. In 1986 he moved to San Antonio and established RioSA Lawncare. He died May 3, 2008, at age 62.

Grant T. Grotelueschen ('74). He resided in Columbus, Neb. No other information available.

Richard K. Boohar ('85). Professor emeritus of biological sciences at the University of Nebraska, he was a well-known faculty member for 40 years. In 1998 he was the recipient of the UNL student foundation award for outstanding advising. He died Feb. 8, 2008, at age 72.

North Dakota State

George Kapusta ('55). He was a charter member of the North Dakota State Chapter. He was a professor with the department of plant and soil science at Southern Illinois University for 35 years. He died March 31, 2008, at age 75.

Oklahoma State

Virdin Leon Royse ('43). He resided in Yukon, Okla. No other information was provided.

Paul Schnaithman ('48). He was a farmer and rancher in Billings, Okla. No other information is available.



We rely on our alumni to send us alumni news and obituaries of brothers who have passed away. So that we may properly record the death of our brothers for our membership, please provide obituaries and/or information about profession, date deceased and age to FarmHouse Fraternity, 7306 NW Tiffany Springs Parkway, Suite 210 Kansas City, Mo. 64153. You may email details notices to fhhq@farmhouse.org or call (800) 722-1905. Badges of deceased members may be returned to the FarmHouse Foundation at the discretion of the family. Badges are passed on to a deserving member of the deceased member's chapter of initiation.



CONCLAVE 2008

45 REASONS TO ATTEND

DEEP IN THE HEART OF FARMHOUSE

AUG. 13-17, 2008 ★ TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY



REASON #15: Spend a fun, relaxing and informative weekend connecting with FarmHouse men from all over North America. It's a chance to meet old friends and make new ones.

REASON #42: Network with accomplished FarmHouse alumni and professionals that may offer career advice or a unique work opportunity.

REASON #6: Be a part of groundbreaking discussions concerning future FarmHouse initiatives.

REASON #1: Everything is bigger in Texas!

REASON #36: How often do you get to spend a weekend relishing in the history of our organization while planning for its future at the same time?

REASON #18: To enjoy activities that highlight FarmHouse ideals: worship with brothers at a Vespers Service, get competitive in the golf tournament and Conclave Olympics, challenge yourself intellectually during the development sessions and socialize with FHers at every opportunity.

REASON #27: Visit another university's campus (Texas Tech) and check out the Tech FarmHouse chapter lodge.

REASON #9: Attend for FREE! Check with your chapter's Foundation Council to see if they will cover all or part of your registration and travel expenses.

REASON #33: Conclave 2008 will challenge you to think about the state of your current FarmHouse chapter and will empower you to make a personal commitment to guide its improvement.

REASON #45: Be inspired by other FarmHouse brothers who have dedicated their lives to Building Men .

VISIT FARMHOUSE.ORG TO DISCOVER THE REST & REGISTER.

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Parents: While your son is in college, this publication will be sent to his home address. If he is no longer in college and not living at home, please send us his new information.