

Texas A&M Chapter of FarmHouse Fraternity

2009-2010 Chapter Programming Award Intellectual

Texas A&M FarmHouse has put an exceptional amount of focus on redeveloping ourselves intellectually this year. Specifically, we have focused on improving our GPAs. We set the following goals to develop ourselves intellectually:

1. Facilitate incentive programs for higher GPAs
2. Improve and organize existing Test Bank
3. Continue mandatory study hours based on GPA
4. Create a new, and improve main study room in the house

In order to achieve our first goal, we have a program we are currently implementing with increasing success. It is known as our Steak and Beans contest. This is a rewards program involving every member of our fraternity. We separate the fraternity into halves based on GPA. The bottom half is required to prepare a steak dinner for the upper half. The lower half then sits down to their own meal, consisting only of beans. This creates competition between members to be in the top half each semester.

We have also grown our test bank, and organized it so members who utilize it can do so more efficiently. This has proved to be most useful, especially for our new members who are taking courses many of us have already taken. Along with the test bank, we are currently constructing a library of old textbooks for which our members may check out for the semester. This has helped our members financially in a tremendous way. Now we don't have to spend large amounts of money on textbooks that get reused each semester.

We have continued to implement a mandatory study hour program. Members with a GPA below 2.5 are required to log in 12 or more study hours per week at either of our campus libraries, or the study rooms located in the house. Members who have a GPA between 2.5 and 3.0 must complete 8 study hours. Those above 3.0 or above are not required to log in hours. All new members are required to complete 12 study hours each week during their pledge semester. The logbooks are checked every week and members who do not complete their hours must answer to the judicial board. Consequences are set on a case-by-case basis.

We have used the money from our technology grant to purchase two computers for the study rooms located in our house. These computers are fast and are compatible with most if not all computer programs required for our courses. These computers have also cut out a large expense of our new members, because it is not necessary for them to purchase a computer when they come to college. Our study rooms are located in two separate areas of the house which provide an excellent place for our members to study.

Our final goal is to create a database of all classes each member has taken, with their grades and comments about the professor, lectures, tests and materials needed attached. By keeping this system updated, our brothers are able to select their classes with more of an idea of what to expect and can gauge which classes will have overlying course materials, and implement better schedules for our brothers. These programs are proving to increase our GPA. Much hard work is being done to continue to improve.