

Our Future Begins Today



APRIL 2012

Wildcat 100 Push Campaign to within 60% of Goal!

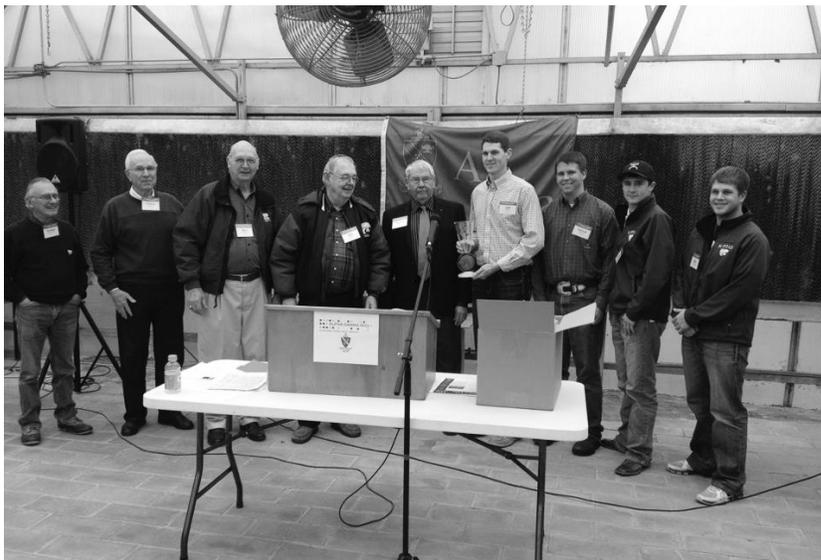
The Wildcat 100 – our first 100 donors – could push the “Our Future Begins Today” campaign past the 60% mark! The writing is definitely on the wall. With only 6 spots left before we officially hit 100 donors, the campaign is already at \$679,563 (56%). Wildcat 100 donors will be permanently acknowledged at the chapter house at the conclusion of the campaign.

Campaign Milestones

1. Twenty-six percent of the campaign goal has been collected. Commodity gifts given directly to the Alumni Association are helping chapter leaders pay down the \$660,000 mortgage by as much \$150,000, saving roughly \$140,000 of interest over the course of the present

loan. Refinancing the mortgage to lower the interest percentage and monthly payment is also being considered by the Alumni Board.

2. Campaign dollars were used to beef up the 2012 AGR scholarship program. At the Pink Rose on March 3rd, 10 additional awards were made possible.
3. The classes of the 1960s and 1990s lead all campaign donors.
4. Although all campaign contributions are appreciated, leadership level gifts of \$10,000 or more are making a difference in the project's early stages. Between February and March 2012 the campaign tally jumped over \$100,000 with just eight new donors.



E-Council members presented a unique glass sculpture – The Governor's Cup – to alumni of the 1950s at Blueville Nursery. From L-R: Norman Schlesener, Nelson Galle, Dick Reinhart, Ben Brent, Warren Nichols, Jeff Cather (NR), Garrett Lister (ran for 2012 KSU Student Body President), Colby Brownrigg, and Reiss Bruning.

Over the Past 5 Years:

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"

“Number 1 at 150 Years” Celebrated at Blueville Nursery

On February 3rd, as a blizzard raged northwest of Manhattan and the Wildcats prepared for Texas A&M on the basketball court, alumni and guests gathered at Blueville Nursery to celebrate AGR's number 1 ranking of all fraternities in Kansas by the Topeka Capital-Journal. “We didn't know if we'd have 50 or 100 people,” said host and owner of Blueville Nursery, Keith Westervelt '81, “but it was a great time to reconnect with alumni and undergrads, and celebrate what being an AGR is all about. With over 150 attending, the goal that Dave Anderson, Dane Hanson and I had was all about connecting... re-connecting with our legacy, connecting alumni, and connecting with the undergrads and dads. This party helped people get to know each other while filling their stomachs with good food. It also left them with a lasting imprint about what the fraternity has developed to be. We had some great people in the room, including Kansas Governor Brownback and Kansas Secretary of Agriculture Dale Rodman. All combined, maybe this was a good way to get people to think about opening up their check books to support the house. We need to continue to invest in the fraternity to keep it competitive, the chapter house full and financially strong for the future.”

“The unexpected bonus of the party was the interaction with the undergrads and dads,” said Alumni Association President Ron Hirst '63. “I had several fathers come up to me to tell me how much they appreciated the hospitality and company.”

“I've not been in touch with the chapter for 20 years or so, but I recently had the urge to get reacquainted with my AGR brothers,” said Dane Hanson '80. “I was very honored to help with this party any way I could. When we reached 100 rsvp's we knew we were on to something good. At this point we are hoping to make this an annual



Over 150 guests attended the Alpha Gamma Rho Blueville Nursery celebration. Some travelled from as far away as Illinois!

event, each year holding it at a different location in the state.”

Being an Owner Brings Responsibility

Campaign Chair Bob Broeckelman '67 was on hand to talk about the status of Alpha Zeta's capital campaign and why alumni have the extra responsibility of being a chapter house “owner.” “When I was growing up in a family of 12,” said Bob, “when our home needed windows and paint, with a good wheat crop we could put in new windows. We were owners. Three weeks ago after attending a funeral in Colby, I went by our old farm home. The shingles were falling off, it needed paint and shrubs, and the decorative trim had fallen down. In 1970 it was a beautiful home. But the new owners left and turned it over to renters. The same thing happened to the AGR house. The owners quit paying attention until Ron Hirst, George Teagarden, Roger Johnson, Richard Chase, Todd Johnson and Pennington Co. developed a plan to remodel the house, and raised around \$950,000 to cover the cost. This group saved the fraternity. In 2012, KSU students don't grow up in families of 12. They have their own bed and usually their own bathroom. When I went to college, it was a move up in the world. Today, students don't see it that way. We had to remodel to survive.

continued on next page



VNR Alumni Relations - Reagan Kays, Keith Westervelt '81, and Dave Anderson '79.

FFA and AGR Made the Difference

Born and raised in Oakley, Bob Broeckelman was one of 12 kids. “We literally lived in a co-ed fraternity! I was the third oldest and twelfth tallest. It was like JC Penny’s; you had to take your number to get in the bathroom.”



Bob Broeckelman '67

Today Bob Broeckelman is Vice President of Recruiting & Selection Service with FCCServices headquartered in Denver, Colorado. Bob’s responsibility is to assist the bank, Farm Credit Associations and their branches with their selection and training of new personnel throughout 38 states in the US and 23 ag cooperatives. Prior to his current role, Bob taught high school vocational agriculture at Norton, KS, and was on the KSU staff serving as the Executive Secretary of the Kansas Association of FFA and Kansas Young Farmers Association.

“Twenty years before I was born,” said Bob, “AGR and FFA started. Both have had a major impact on my life, just like my fraternity brothers. I’ve had several monumental pushes in life. The first was with my dad sitting on a hay bale. Because of my bad hay fever, Dad said I could still have an impact in agriculture without being on the farm, but needed to go to college and get an education. My second push in

life came from my ag teacher who came by the farm wanting me to go to FFA camp. He basically made me go to FFA camp. It was the best push I ever had in life, because I saw other people doing things with a positive attitude like I should be. Terry Odle came by the farm during my senior year, and had to explain to my dad what a fraternity was. You don’t join when you don’t know what it is. I was rushed on campus by three fraternities, and I wasn’t impressed. Then Randy Stoecker invited me over to the AGR house. I told him point blank that I would eat his food, but I would not pledge! The AGR house was different and I felt at home. After my dad told me I was old enough to make that decision, I decided to pledge. It was the first time I had my own bed to sleep in. The study room seemed normal with other people in the room. I learned manners and how to live with all types of people.

“Making a difference in young men’s lives is what AGR is all about. When George W. Bush was re-elected the second time, a reporter asked Laura what her biggest concern was. She said, we’ve put so much time in to building up women’s self-esteem that we forgot about the men. This is why we need AGR now more than ever. AGR and FFA are great partners in developing our future leaders. We need lots of them in the agriculture industry today. And like Laura Bush said, we need them now more than ever.”

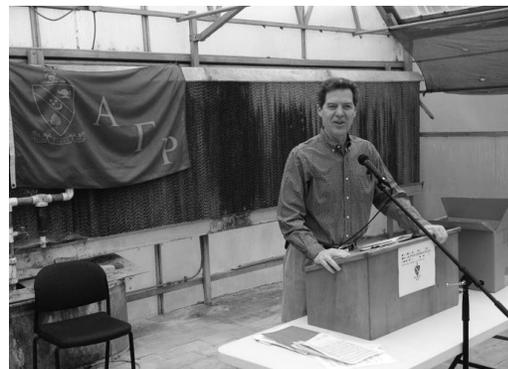
Number 1 (continued)

“We have a new capital campaign going on right now. Although it’s in the quiet phase, we’ve raised over half of the \$1.2 million already, thanks to some generous givers like the Nelson family and our own Secretary of Ag, Dale Rodman and his wife Ronda. We need others to help out and make a difference. Let’s take a moment and celebrate being the number one fraternity in Kansas. The first campaign saved the house. This campaign is going to preserve the house.

“Think about what \$70,000 more dollars per year can do for the fraternity if we pay the mortgage off. The Board met earlier today and realized that if we pay off \$150,000 of the principal now, we can save \$140,000 interest over the life of the original loan. Let’s go for it. We need your help to be successful. Be a good steward of this chapter house. As an AGR alumnus, you are an owner who can’t afford to let this asset deteriorate. There’s too much at stake.”

Party Highlights

In addition to the superb BBQ provided by Keith Westervelt, Governor Brownback, Chapter Advisor Josh Roe, and Ron Hirst spoke.



Governor Brownback speaking at Blueville Nursery.

Fifty-plus year members Nelson Galle, Dick Reinhardt, Norman Schlesner, Ben Brent and Warren Nichols were on hand to receive the Governor’s Cup from leadership of the undergraduate chapter. Organized by Dave Anderson, the green and gold glass sculpture will be on permanent display at 1919 Platt.

Scholarships Awarded at Pink Rose Total \$30,000

On March 3rd 106 alumni, spouses and undergraduates gathered in Manhattan for our Pink Rose celebration. A highlight of the annual event is the announcement and distribution of our scholarship awards. In years past some 15 scholarships have been awarded annually (\$20,000 total) ranging from \$500 to \$2,000. The majority are directed to new members. This effort is largely made possible by contributions made by 20 brothers who pledged \$100 to \$5,000 annually for the last five years. 2010 was the final year of their pledge.

In 2012, nearly \$10,000 of additional scholarship dollars were made available through the success of the capital campaign. The following is a snap shot of the 25 awards presented that ranged from \$500 to \$3000:

Steve Burgess Scholarship: \$1,000 – upperclassman

Mike Smith/Ag1Source Scholarship for VNR Recruitment: \$3,000

Roger Johnson Scholarship for VNR Property Manager: \$2,000

Dale Rodman Scholarships for new members: \$8,000

Doug Weyer Scholarships for new members: \$5,000

Bill New Family Endowed Scholarship: \$1,000 – upperclassman

The undergraduates receiving awards represented 13 different majors. In-house members whose GPA exceeded 3.0 received awards of \$500 to \$1,000. Four upperclassmen achieved a 4.0 GPA and received an award of \$1,250 each.

A subcommittee of seven alumni are overseeing the scholarship program, including: Michael Springer, Charley Cull, Doug Weyer, Steve Burgess, Roger Johnson, Justin Hagedorn, Jeff Carther – Noble Ruler, and Will Longinaker - VNR Scholarship. Moving forward, their vision is to award the following with an endowed scholarship fund:

- \$500 – \$2,000 to all second semester new members who have met or exceeded the all men's academic average
- \$500, \$750 and \$1000 awards to undergraduate in-house members who meet GPAs of at least 3.25
- \$1,250 to upperclassmen who have a 4.0 GPA

“What we're able to do in the future will really depend on how well we do with the capital campaign,” said Doug Weyer '67. “We won't be touching the principal we raise, but working off annual returns of roughly four percent. As an annual

scholarship donor since 2008, I've seen the impact that these awards have on kids and on the chapter. As the cost of college increases, the number one thing to consider is that these kids need financial help. And our ability as a chapter to give these awards, keeps them performing and wanting to be an AGR brother. It's a win-win for all.”

Steve Burgess '61 Early Scholarship Supporter

“Never a day goes by that I don't think about AGR,” said Steve Burgess '61. “This was especially true when I went to South America in the Peace Corp after graduation. I just had this feeling that if I had any trouble my brothers would come get me.” Today Steve keeps in touch regularly with Dale Rodman, Wally Wolf, John Nelson, Bill New and little brother Roger Johnson primarily through email. It's amazing the opportunities we have now to keep in touch.”



Sponsoring an AGR scholarship since 1995, Steve Burgess, left, presents a scholarship to Justin Hagedorn at the 2011 Pink Rose.

Steve has also been keeping in touch with what's going on with the undergraduate chapter. In 1995 he started the AGR scholarship program for AZ. “A college education is becoming more and more expensive, and housing is plentiful on and off campus. Having a scholarship program helps AGR be more competitive. As alumni, if we don't financially support the fraternity, things like this won't happen. I never thought of this as an active. But I definitely see its importance today. Being at Pink Rose and handing out these awards is very rewarding. Everyone has their projects they like to support. This is mine.”

Steve had the unique opportunity, like Roger Johnson, to serve on the National AGR Housing Resource Trust, which assists AGR chapters across the US with housing concerns. “I was so proud as I visited other chapters on how to improve their facilities, because we have one of the nicest around at Alpha Zeta Chapter. This speaks well for our alumni. I've seen chapters where alumni have never invested a dime. It was sad, and these places were a mess. I'm proud of the house and its impact on my life. I never would have finished school without the fraternity.”

Todd Johnson '90 Speaks at Pink Rose

“AGR has done so much for me; much more than I’ve done for the fraternity. The life lessons that I continue to rely upon today originate from my AGR experience. What’s the secret ingredient that it consistently delivers to its members? The answer is purpose and it has no limits.



Todd Johnson '90 is Vice President of the Owner/Member Services Department for the National Cattlemen's Beef Association.

“We’re fortunate that our purpose was well defined and written down on paper many years ago. Now it’s simply up to us to continually refine that purpose within the context of our own lives and careers. AGR is “making better men and through them a broader and better agriculture.” I acknowledge it’s difficult for me to remember the remainder of the purpose without referencing the Golden Crescent. But the first few words of this purpose is what we and our families, and our society should appreciate.

“Our companies need better and more employees. As I read about activist organizations sabotaging ag research facilities, feedlots and food supply systems, and then taking credit for the damage, I’m concerned about the future of agriculture and the ability to feed our country and a grow-

ing world. For those who have taken Dr. Flinchbaugh’s Ag Policy class, we know that a strong military (and therefore country), is a well fed country. We can’t take for granted the food and fiber industry and its impact on our world. AGR keeps agriculture front and center in our focus as students and as future industry professionals.

“Alpha Gamma Rho has no limits. The reach and strength of our brotherhood is good as well as bad! Whether it’s singing to my new wife at our wedding, attending a funeral and filling the front rows of the church, or forming a business partnership. AGR impacts brotherhood, family and friends.

“There’s also no limit to crossing the invisible age barrier between AGRs and connecting undergrads with alumni. There’s no limiting the things you can learn by engaging with likeminded brothers given a common purpose. And as alumni we should expect to be pulled in and asked for help. That’s what better men do.”

Pink Rose Social

Twenty-eight AGRs and guests attended the Pink Rose Social on March 2 at Rambler’s Steakhouse following Cattlemen’s Day at K-State.

Naming Opportunities Available at the Chapter House

Twenty-eight room naming opportunities were made available at the start of the “Our Future Begins Today” project. Six are already spoken for, including:

The Norm Nelson Family – Dining Room
Dale Rodman – Alumni Board Room
Steve Burgess – Computer Room
Sam Hands – Communication Room
Bob Broeckelman – Reception/Mail Room
Scott and Brad Foote – Upper Deck

Think about the following as you consider supporting Alpha Zeta Chapter. This is your unique opportunity to leave a lasting legacy at the house that made you a “better man.”

\$250,000 gift... Living Room, Donor Recognition Wall, First Floor, Second Floor

\$100,000 gift... Parking Lot, Brotherhood Program, Mentoring Program

\$50,000 - \$99,999 gift... Back Patio, Game Room

\$25,000 - \$49,999 gift ALL TAKEN!

\$15,000 to \$24,999 gift... 3-man study rooms (13 available)

Dave Anderson '79 Will Chair General Campaign

Dave Anderson '79 has accepted the role of General Campaign Chair for Alpha Zeta. Once the campaign reaches 60-70 percent of the \$1.2 million goal – expected this Spring – all alumni will be contacted for a gift. Dave is already reaching out to new volunteers to take on Decade and Class Chair responsibilities.



Dave Anderson '79

“AGR has accomplished a lot in the 10 years since the chapter house was renovated. Thanks to the hard work of many dedicated volunteers and chapter advisors, the chapter house is in great physical shape and recruiting is generating high quality members. Now it’s time to put the house on solid financial footing and to reawaken our alumni. Phase II of our strategic plan will retire our mortgage, provide necessary building and maintenance capital, and scholarships to continue to recruit and mentor the greatest young men in agriculture that K-State has to offer. Our successful legacy cannot continue to thrive without the commitment of brothers like you and me. Stay tuned to see how you can become involved in the project.

Meet Others Working on Behalf of the Campaign

Members of the campaign team include: Chair Bob Broeckelman '67, Vice Chair Ty Brookover '96, Ryan Breiner '99, Ben Brent '56, Darren Gigot '90, Sam Hands

'67, Ron Hays '67, Ron Hirst '63, Clayton Huseman '95, Todd Johnson '90, Jesse McCurry '96, Steve Miles '74, Terry Nelson '77, John Niemann '89, Rick Perkins '85, Brent Rockers '78, Jay Selanders '76, Dennis Shurtz '69, Steve Slusher '64, Mike Smith '78, Randy Stoecker '66, Darrell Webber '58, Jerrod Westfahl '93, Doug Weyer '67, and Brent Wideman '92. For more information concerning the campaign, don't hesitate to call on one of us or Campaign Coordinator Kathy Benson at 585-734-2693 or kathy@ivypartners.com.

Darrell Cardell Joins Campaign Team

“AGR adopted me when I was a very naïve, broke, freshman farm kid. They provided me a very nurturing and yet challenging home-away-from-home, and helped me to learn how to deal with people, situations and to become a successful vo-ag teacher and agri-businessman. How can I not try to partially pay them back for that help, now that I have the time and resources?”



Darrell and his wife Edna.

Meet the 2012 E-Council

Name	Position	Major	Email	Phone	Hometown
Jeff Cather	Noble Ruler	Ag Econ	jcather1@ksu.edu	620-842-2538	Anthony, KS
Cody Burke	VNR Finance	Animal Science	burkec@ksu.edu	402-649-9735	Genoa, NE
Logan Britton	VNR Mem. Dev.	AgEcon/Ag Comm	lbritton@ksu.edu	620-778-4918	Bartlet, KS
Reagan Kays	VNR Alum. Rel.	Agribusiness	rkays@ksu.edu	620-249-0407	Weir, KS
Andrew Scherrer	VNR Recruitment	Agronomy	drewsch@ksu.edu	719-760-2570	Matheson, CO
Greg Harris	VNR Operations	AgEcon/ATM	harris91@ksu.edu	785-2801633	Abilene, KS
Eric Noel	VNR Activities	Food Science	ericnoel@ksu.edu	913-731-6388	LaCygne, KS
Chad Nuelle	VNR Planning	ATM	chadnuel@ksu.edu	660-238-5873	Higginsville, MO
Will Longinaker	VNR Scholarship	AgEcon	wwd1@ksu.edu	712-242-8555	Randolph, IA

Our Future Begins Today



CAMPAIGN DONOR ROSTER

GOAL: \$1.2 MILLION

Amount Pledged/Gifted to date: \$679,563

Percent Pledged: 56%

Percent Collect: 26%

Total Number of Contributors: 94

Founder's Club

\$100,000 or more

Number of Gifts to date: 1

The Norm Nelson Family

Terry '77, Troy '79, Clarke '06, Bo '03

Sickle & Sheaf

\$50,000 - \$99,999

Number of Gifts to date: 2

Steve Burgess '61

Dale Rodman '61

Crescent Club

\$25,000 - \$49,999

Number of Gifts to date: 4

Dr. Bob '67 and Bunny Broeckelman

Scott '94 and Brad '95 Foote

Sam Hands '67

Randall D. Stoecker '66

Green & Gold Club

\$10,000 - \$24,999

Number of Gifts to date: 17

Alpha Zeta Chapter Undergraduates

The Atwell Families: Merritt Atwell '43,

Dennis Atwell '68, Thad Combs '92,

Theron Combs '96, Thane Combs '01

Ben Brent '56

Ty Brookover '96

Darrell '70 and Edna Cardell

Richard J. Chase '47

John Evans '63

Darren Gigot '90

Grant P. Harris '95

Ron and Bette Hirst '63

Roger '63 and Jilinda Johnson

Todd Johnson '90

John '89 and Casey Niemann '92

Rick and Susan Perkins '85

Michael Smith '78—Ag 1 Source

Kenton Weltmer '74

Doug Weyer '67 for the James Weyer

Memorial Fund

Leadership Club

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Number of Gifts to date: 22

Dave Anderson '79

Richard A. Barta, D.V.M. '63

Kenneth '63 and Marilyn Buchele

Charles R. Cole '65

Nelson Galle '54

John '99 and Mike Kramer '96

Loren Kruse '66

Tracy Mader '90

Marlin Mason '68

Roger '85 and Lindsay McClellan

Steven Miles '74

Jeff Morgan '97

Ted Odle '70

Randy Reinhardt '79

Brent A. Rockers '78

Todd M. Schwarz '88

Jay Selanders '97

Dennis K. Shurtz '69

Steven H. Slusher '64

Kenneth L. Smith '69

Darrell L. Webber '58

Brent Wiedeman '92

Spirit Club

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Number of Gifts to date: 29

Larry Antrim '60

Ryan Breiner '99

Charley A. Cull '07

Ray W. Ely '57

John Grady '96

Ron Hays '67

Clayton Huseman '95

Virgil Huseman '64

Ivy Partners

Bruce L. Johnson '67

Einar Johnson '53

Dan Latourell '79

Jesse McCurry '96

Tim Ohlde '80

Larry Reichenberger '71

Dick '53 and Linda Reinhardt

L. Dru Richard '67

Josh Roe '99

Armin Samuelson '49

Charles P. Sauerwein '69

Gabe Schlickau '98

Chuck Shada '68

Dr. Charles Stoehr '61

Jeff Sutton '96

Matthew Urbanek '93

Jerrod Westfahl '93

Keith Westervelt '81

David White '06

Jerome Yorke '64

Four Pillars Club

\$500 - \$999

Number of Gifts to date: 8

Chad Breiner '94

Larry V. Cundiff '58

Don Drake '53

Ray Flickner '74

Dalton Henry '07

Timothy Sanders '70

Cody Stuber '98

Larry Theurer '60

Up to \$499

Number of Gifts to date: 11

Arnold Appleby '54

James Ferrell '92 (Pi chapter)

Larry Geil '60

Kylo Heller '97

David Johnson '82

Dan Marrs '62

Doug Nelson

Max Peterson '63

Spencer Schrader '93

Kelly D. Welch '84

Ron Welch '65

In Kind Gifts

Dave Anderson '79

Ty Brookover '96

Darren Gigot '90

Sam Hands '67



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Manhattan, KS 66502-2840

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Pencil in July 20-21 for AGR summer fun!

Blueville Nursery Celebrates 50 Years in 2012

In 1962, the year Keith Westervelt was born, his mom and dad purchased Blueville Nursery by US Mail. Darrell Westervelt was stationed with the Army in



Little Rock, Arkansas. The former owners – Marlin and Gladys Scott – had offered to pay for Darrell, a former dairy science major at K-State, to pursue a master's degree in ornamental horticulture.

In 1998, Keith Westervelt '81 came home from St. Louis with his young family to take over the business when his dad retired. "This party was a great way to celebrate Blueville Nursery's 50th anniversary," said Keith. "For me and the way we're set up as a business, it's not all about making money selling trees and shrubs. It's about seeing people grow and develop. That's the success of AGR and Blueville in a nutshell."

K-State Undergrad Wins State Farm Bureau Contest

Sophomore Reagan Kays, who's majoring in Animal Sciences & Industry, won the 2012 Kansas Farm Bureau Collegiate Discussion Meet. He will represent the state in Arizona competing at the American Farm Bureau Federation Collegiate Discussion Meet in 2013. In winning the state contest, Reagan receives \$500 from Kansas Farm Bureau. The winner of the national contest wins a \$6,000 savings bond.

Group Gathers in Garden City

Organized by Sam Hands '67, Ty Brookover '96 and Darren Gigot '90, a Garden City steak dinner took place February 28 at Samy's Spirits & Steakhouse. Tornado like winds didn't keep away the following:

Alex Bolack, Brandon Barr, Steve Burgess, Richard Corbett, Jerry Dechant, Grant Harris, Michael Richmeier, Brian Price, Mel Normal, Larry Jones, Kory Strasser and Charlie Sauerwein. K-State went on to beat the Aggies 76-70 thanks in part to Rodney McGruder who scored 26 points with five 3-pointers.