

# Our Future Begins Today



OCTOBER 2012

## Alpha Zeta Celebrates 85th Anniversary at Founders Day

As if the Wildcats knew that a lop-sided 56-16 victory over KU would be the icing on the cake, Alpha Zeta celebrated 85 years with a bang on October 6th. Over 200 alumni, friends and parents of undergraduates attended the day long festivities which dovetailed with the fraternity's Parents Weekend.

Jerrod Westfahl was elected to president of the alumni board. Ron Hirst officially passed the gavel after eight years of service. "Ron Hirst has been a key driver in Alpha Zeta's success, particularly over the last decade through his leadership as Alumni Association president," said Jerrod. "Because of his service, we are positioned for continued growth and achievement. True to AGR's values, Ron has gone about things in a humble, workmanlike manner that is a model for all brothers. On behalf of all K-State AGRs, I thank Ron for his significant contribution to our chapter."



*Ron Hirst '63 presided over his last Founders Day board meeting.*

### Other 85th highlights:

- Dr. John Floros, the new Dean of the College of Agriculture attended the AGR tailgate with Associate Dean, Dr. Don Boggs.
- The Mothers' Club Auction raised over \$4,000 with Brother Wyatt Schumann as our auctioneer. Thank you alumni and parents for your support.
- Over 30 families attended Parents' Weekend events.

**\$1.2 Million Capital Campaign Kicked Off at Founders. Only \$384,000 to Go!**

For more information on the campaign, contact:  
Campaign Coordinator Kathy Benson at 585-734-2693  
or go to [www.ksuagr.org](http://www.ksuagr.org)

**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"**

# Capital Campaign Launches at \$815,910!

It's no longer a secret. The cat is officially out of the bag on our \$1.2 million campaign to eliminate renovation debt, build scholarship funds, and undertake priority improvements at the chapter house. Speaking at the 85th anniversary celebration on Founders Day, Keith Westervelt '81 said: "I would encourage everyone to get connected and help strengthen the long-term viability of our house. This 85th celebration highlights the impressive track record that our alumni and undergraduates have built at K-State. But however strong today, our future is not guaranteed. This campaign will ensure that the fraternity has solid footing to secure and promote the best men on campus and in the ag and food industry here in Kansas and beyond."

Our 2004 renovation, made possible by a solid alumni corps, lifted AGR to new heights at K-State. In less than 10 years, we've:

- 1) Remodeled the house
- 2) Doubled membership
- 3) Filled the house for four consecutive semesters
- 4) Increased annual scholarship awards from \$1,000 to \$30,000 plus
- 5) Received Gold Chapter status from National for five consecutive years
- 6) Named best fraternity in Kansas by the Topeka Capital Journal in 2011 and "Top 10" national fraternity by The Daily Beast/Newsweek Magazine in 2012

Although fortunate enough to celebrate 85 years of "making better men" at K-State, our future is not a given. We must consider how we can make the fraternity more sustainable long term.

Eliminating our mortgage (\$660,000) is job number one. As chapter house owners, it would save alumni \$325,000

in interest charges over the next 14 years. This would allow the alumni board to reallocate up to 56% of the current operating budget. Maintenance and ongoing improvements (\$100,000) are still necessary, especially with the house operating at peak capacity (56 men). With the mortgage retired, additional savings could be reinvested to support future improvements or expansion if warranted. Scholarship assistance (\$440,000) rewards/encourages peak academic and leadership performance by members, and strengthens AGR's ability to recruit the best young men on campus.

## Volunteers Supporting Campaign in Big Way

Working quietly since early 2010, over 100 volunteers have joined the campaign to date. "Without this solid corps of alumni, we'd still be at square one," said Campaign Committee Chair, Bob Broeckelman '67. "Each has had unique responsibility and all have come to the table first as donors. It's hard to ask your brothers to make a major gift if you haven't invested first. We heard loud and clear during our 2010 campaign feasibility study that a new campaign could not be successful if we were going to use the same horses who have consistently given their time and energy to support the chapter dating back to even before the renovation. So we've worked long and hard to perfect our Phase 2 message and strategy so the responsibility of this effort would be felt and shared by all 1,200 alumni."



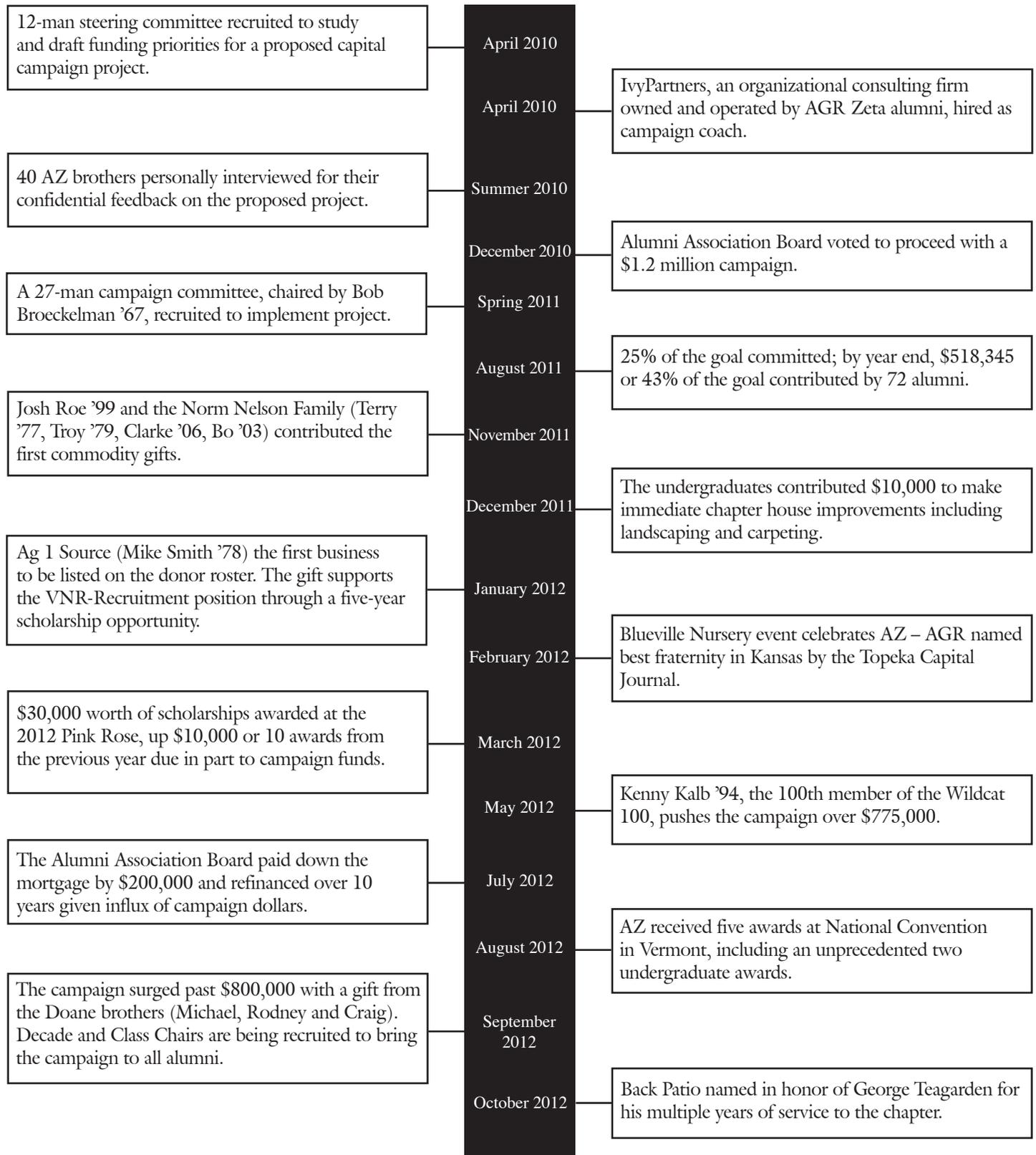
Bob Broeckelman '67

## Thank You Keith Westervelt '81

Class of '82 Chair Keith Westervelt has gone beyond the call of duty this year on behalf of AZ Chapter. Keith hosted an AGR barbecue at Blueville Nursery this February to celebrate our recognition as the best fraternity in Kansas in 2011. This fall he helped cook dinner for undergrads and their parents during move-in day. And as an extra incentive to pledge to the "Our Future Begins Today" campaign, Keith offered a coupon for a free double dip cone at Call Hall to alumni attending Founders Day. It's good through March 2013.



# A Wild & Successful Campaign Ride!



# Marching on: Meet Campaign Volunteers

## 2010-2012 Alumni Board

Ron Hirst, Ben Brent, Jeff Sutton, Chad Chase, Kylo Heller, Steve Slusher, Jason Grady, Jeff Morgan, Ken Smith, Dalton Henry, Jerrod Westfahl, Adam Baldwin

## Steering Committee Leaders

Chair - Steve Slusher, Bob Broeckelman, Richard Chase, Sam Hands, Brandon Harder, Rick Perkins, Jim Riemann, Dale Rodman, John Roenbaugh, Gabe Schlickau, Andrew Strasburg, George Teagarden, Jerrod Westfahl

## Feasibility Study Participants

Del Allen, Dave Anderson, Adam Baldwin, Ben Brent, Bob Broeckelman, Ty Brookover, Sam Brownback, Ken Buchele, Steve Burgess, Richard Chase, Ron Dunbar, Nelson Galle, Jim Garrison, Sam Hands, Grant Harris, Virgil Huseman, Todd Johnson, Tom Knappenberger, Pat Koons, Loren Kruse, Tim Luginsland, Tracy Mader, Roger McClellan, Jesse McCurry, John Meetz, Bob Moore, Clarke Nelson, Terry Nelson, Bill New, John Niemann, Rick Perkins, Jim Riemann, Dale Rodman, Josh Roe, Lloyd Schneider, Dennis Shurtz, Steve Slusher, Randy Stoecker, Doug Weyer, Brent Wiedeman, Wallace Wolf

## Campaign Committee

Chair - Bob Broeckelman '67, Vice Chair - Ty Brookover '96, Dave Anderson '79, 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 Wiedeman '92.

## General Campaign Committee

Chair - Dave Anderson, Dir. Communications - Jeff Sutton

## Decade Chairs

1960s – Loren Kruse, Ted Odle  
1970s – Kevin Lichteig, Darrell Cardell  
1980s – Keith Heikes, Rick Perkins, Marc Bokelman  
1990s – Brent Wiedeman, Jerrod Westfahl  
2000s – Ron Pope, Dalton Henry, Justin Hagedorn

## Class Chairs

1963	Roger Johnson	1992	Casey Niemann
1969	Kenneth Smith	1993	Matthew Urbanek
1970	S. Kendal Frazier	1994	Marty Reichenberger
1971	Craig Sharp	1995	J.L. Evins
1972	Wayne Busch	1995	Clayton Huseman
1973	Darrell Cardell	1998	Gabe Schlickau
1976	Joel Eder	1999	Delvin Higginson
1977	Keith Heikes	1999	Ryan Breiner
1978	Kevin Lichteig	2000	Kent Nichols
1982	Keith Westervelt	2004	Ronny Pope
1987	Gregg Doud	2005	Adam Hatesohl
1990-91	Todd Johnson	2006	David White
1992	Aaron McKee	2007	Shane Blaes

## Expect a Call From Your Class Chair

Beginning as early as this August, Decade and Class Chairs have begun calling on their classmates to support the campaign. Leading efforts in the early 1970s, Darrell Cardell has been working the phones from his home office in Colorado. He has three reasons for getting knee-deep in the campaign effort:

*#1 — **MOTIVATION** to be involved with AGR fund raising is to pay back a financial and emotional debt to AGR at KSU after my “oh-so” juvenile and “flat broke” years.*

*#2 — **REWARD** is to re-kindle contacts and re-connect relationships with AGR brothers from 40+ years ago, even with my 82-year old Vo-Ag teacher from high school who believe it or not is still 20 years older than me!*

*#3 — **FUN** to remember and share some great memories (even if they bring a tear to your eye) and to joke, chuckle, laugh and simply reminisce with those you went to school with 40 years ago.*

**If interested in volunteering, contact:  
Campaign Coordinator Kathy Benson at  
585-734-2693 or [kathy@ivypartners.com](mailto:kathy@ivypartners.com)**

# Wildcat 100 Pushes Campaign to \$775,000

The first 100 alumni to support the “Our Future Begins Today” campaign are affectionately referred to as the Wildcat 100. Including a host of volunteers, these brothers were quick to endorse the vision of mortgage retirement, increased scholarship assistance and ongoing chapter house investment to enhance the continued viability of AGR at K-State. In recognition of their early commitment, the Wildcat 100 will be permanently acknowledged at the chapter house at the conclusion of the campaign.



AGR chapter,” said Dave. “If successful, this effort will push the campaign over the \$1.2 million mark in short order. Members of the ‘85 for 85’ will be permanently acknowledged on a donor wall display at the chapter house at the conclusion of the campaign.

“Class Chairs are also working hard to secure at least 85 percent participation for their classes in celebration of our 85th,” added Dave. “If brothers can hit that magic number, a study room will be named in honor of that initiation class.”

Kenny Kalb '94 was Wildcat number 100. “I want to help the chapter be debt free; to see it operating by itself,” said Kenny. “By getting our feet firmly on the ground now, the fraternity will be in a better position to be more competitive in the future.”

In recognition of his gift, Kenny will be naming the Game Room.

## Wanted: “85 for 85”

Given that 2012 is our 85th anniversary, General Campaign Chair Dave Anderson '79 has developed a new opportunity for brothers to make a special contribution to the AZ capital campaign this year. “We’re looking for 85 brothers to step forward with a pledge of \$1,000 annually for five years in recognition of our 85 years as an



VNR-Alumni Relations Reagan Kays '14, Keith Westervelt '81 and Dave Anderson '79 at Blueville Nursery.

## Room Naming Opportunities Going Fast!

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

\$100,000 gift... Dining Room (The Norm Nelson Family), Parking Lot, Brotherhood Program, Mentoring Program

\$50,000 - \$99,999 gift... Alumni Board Room (Dale Rodman), Computer Room (Steve Burgess)

\$25,000 - \$49,999 gift... Communication Room (Sam Hands), Reception/Mail Room (Bob Broeckelman), Upper Deck (Scott & Brad Foote), Dining Room Cabinets (Randy Stoecker), Game Room (Kenny Kalb), Back Patio (in recognition of George Teagarden)

\$15,000 to \$24,999 gift... 3-man study rooms (13 still available) Room 203 John and Larry Stuckey



Randy Stoecker '66, Dr. John Floros, Ron Hirst '63 and Ben Brent '56 at Founders Day.

# Burgess and Rodman Encourage Scholarship Giving

In 1995 Steve Burgess started the AGR scholarship program for AZ. “A college education is becoming more and more expensive, and housing is plentiful on and off campus,” said Steve. “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.”

For the past six years, Dale and Ronda Rodman have made a charitable gift to the K-State Foundation to support AGR scholarships. “It’s not like anything we’ve ever done before,” said Ronda. “This gift changes boys’ lives and we get to see them grow. We continue to give to our churches, The Red Cross, and Cancer Society, but this is personal. Nothing gives us more pleasure and joy than to get to know the boys and see how the scholarships aid them. We’ve been invited to graduation parties and now even a wedding from the young men we’ve supported through the years. It’s not a situation where you give and just walk away.”

Scholarships are a major component of the “Our Future Begins Today” campaign. Of the \$1.2 million goal, alumni volunteers hope to raise at least \$440,000 to establish an endowment that would contribute approximately



*Steve Burgess '61 and Justin Hagedorn '08*

\$17,000 annually for AGR leadership and academic awards targeting existing and new members. Currently seven out of every 10 K-State students receive some sort of financial assistance to offset college expenses. If the \$1.2 million goal is surpassed, additional giving will be directed to AGR scholarships. A team of seven brothers—including alumni and undergraduates—is overseeing the AZ scholarship program. The seven committee members are: Michael Springer, Charley Cole, Doug Weyer, Steve Burgess, Roger Johnson, Justin Hagedorn, and VNR Scholarship.

## Commodity Gifts Are Just One Way to Give



*Terry Nelson '77*

To date, alumni have contributed over \$150,000 to the campaign through commodity giving. Farmers gifting inventory to charities may reduce their liability for federal and state income taxes and possibly on self-employment taxes. Prior to a gift of commodities, the donor

should consult with their personal tax advisor to determine the best giving strategy. For AZ, these funds can be used to immediately pay down the mortgage.

“Making a commodity gift was real easy,” said Terry Nelson '77, who together with his brother, nephew and son, made the campaign’s largest gift as the Norman Nelson Family. “We didn’t even have to write a check. All I did was pick up the phone. It was a simple, smooth transaction with positive tax benefits for our operation.”

“Looking at the chapter, many alumni have dedicated their time and energy to the undergraduates with much success, but little acknowledgement. Some of us can’t do that on a weekly basis, so this project is our opportunity to give back. We probably should be doing more compared to what Ben Brent, Ron Hirst, Roger Johnson, George Teagaden, Todd Johnson and Chapter Advisor Josh Roe have done through the years.

“One of the best experiences a young man can have at K-State is being an AGR. Four from our family can certainly attest to that dating back to the 1970s, including myself, Troy, and our sons Bo and Clark. It was extremely memorable for all of us; a life changing event. In making our family gift, our father Norman realized just how important it was for his sons and grandsons.”

In addition to gifts of commodities, alumni can also contribute cash and non cash gifts including: appreciated securities, marketable real estate, retirement and health insurance plans. A five-year pledge is available. Contact Kathy Benson at 585-734-2693 for more information. Campaign materials are available at [www.agrksu.com](http://www.agrksu.com).

# Our Future Begins Today



**CAMPAIGN DONOR ROSTER**

**GOAL: \$1.2 MILLION**

**Percent Pledged: 68%**

**Amount Pledged/Gifted to date: \$815,910**

**Percent Collected: 34%**

**Total Number of Contributors: 110**

**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: 6

Dr. Bob '67 and Bunny  
Broeckelman  
John Evans '63  
Scott '94 and Brad '95 Foote  
Sam Hands '67  
Kenny Kalb '94  
Randall D. Stoecker '66

**Green & Gold Club**

\$10,000 - \$24,999

Number of Gifts to date: 21

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  
The Doane Brothers: Mike  
'92, Rodney '95, Craig '02  
Darren Gigot '90

Grant P. Harris '95  
Ron and Bette Hirst '63  
Travis '90 and Aaron '93 Hirst  
Roger '63 and Jilinda Johnson  
Todd Johnson '90  
Aaron McKee '92  
John '89 and Casey Niemann  
'92  
Rick and Susan Perkins '85  
Michael Smith '78—Ag 1  
Source  
John '60 and Larry '63 Stuckey  
in memory of Mark Wright  
Kenton Weltmer '74  
Doug Weyer '67 for the James  
Weyer Memorial Fund

**Leadership Club**

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Number of Gifts to date: 27

Dave Anderson '79  
Richard A. Barta, D.V.M. '63  
Marc Bokelman '82  
Scott Bokelman '79  
Kenneth '63 and Marilyn  
Buchele  
Neil Caudle '89  
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  
Marty Reichenberger '94  
Randall R. Reinhardt '79  
Brent A. Rockers '78  
Mike Schmitt '67  
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: 39

Robert D. Ames '64  
Larry Antrim '60  
Ryan Breiner '99  
Edward N. Childs, D.V.M.  
'63  
Charley A. Cull '07  
Ray W. Ely '57  
Jason Grady '96  
Justin D. Hagedorn '08  
Ron Hays '67  
Clayton Huseman '95  
Virgil Huseman '64  
Jon Isch '58  
Ivy Partners  
Bruce L. Johnson '67  
Einar Johnson '53  
Dan Latourell '79  
Trent LeDoux '94  
Jesse McCurry '96  
Peter M. Nichols '82  
Tim Ohlde'80  
Randall Olander '67  
John R. Price '65  
Doug Read '82  
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  
Danny Scott '69  
Chuck Shada '68  
Alan Sobba '81  
Dr. Charles Stoechr '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: 9

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  
Richard L. Theurer '64

**Up to \$499**

Number of Gifts to date: 12

Arnold Appleby '54  
Brad Breising  
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



PMB 339  
1228 Westloop  
Manhattan, KS 66502-2840

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Big News Announced at Founders Day!

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## Campaign Made Chapter House Improvements Possible This Summer

Representing the House Improvement Committee, Roger Johnson '63 helped spearhead updates to the chapter house this summer and early fall. "The undergrads' gift of \$10,000 helped replace carpeting in the hallways and stairs," said Roger. "Landscaping was also stepped up especially around our sign. Our bathroom improvement project replaced two of five shower stalls on both levels with larger units. This involved new drains and epoxy flooring. The dining room was repainted, and new oak trim was installed around the windows and for chair rails. Eight new tables and 64 chairs were purchased, as well as four complete bed sets.

"These improvements would not be possible without the campaign," added Roger. "The undergraduates' rent just pays on our note and normal maintenance. There is no extra. The fraternity is really reaping the benefits from having a top notch house. We are drawing the top agriculture kids, and they're taking care of the facility. Parents are impressed. As a fraternity we have to provide



*The undergrads chipped in \$10,000 for priority improvements.*

housing that's functional and useable. There used to be four fraternities on our block: the Delts, Kappa Sig and the Sig Eps. Only two are left, mainly because the others haven't cared for their facilities and subsequently the caliber of students dropped. That's not happening at AGR."