



## “Legacy” Tradition

I enter the beautiful AGR limestone house, located just west of Kansas State’s campus and walk into the spacious lobby. On my right, hangs the Alpha Zeta Hall of Fame honoring Alpha Gamma Rho alumni who have provided distinguished service and leadership for the Alpha Zeta Chapter over years. Among those honored, I see the photo of my grandfather, Elmer Pelton.

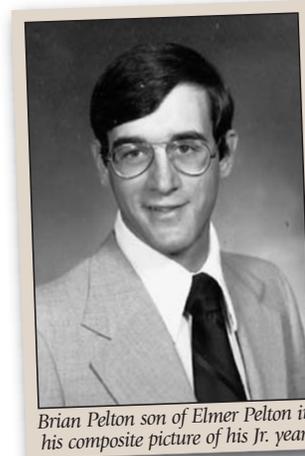
I am an AGR “legacy”. In addition to my grandfather, my uncle was also an Alpha Gamma Rho brother. While growing up in the Pelton family, “AGR” was a frequent topic of conversation between my grandfather, uncle and mother. Before college, I was unfamiliar with the term “legacy” and its meaning. I knew the AGR house was a good fraternity and that my family members had lived in the house. As a third generation member of this fraternity and Alpha Zeta Chapter, my image of being a “legacy” has been transformed. By living in the house the past two years with my brothers, the word “legacy” has taken a whole new meaning.

In 1948, Elmer Pelton (my mother’s father) joined Alpha Gamma Rho at Kansas State College. He never imagined that a son and a grandson would consider joining the same fraternity. I remember my family talking about my grandfather serving as treasurer for the Alumni Board of Alpha Zeta Chapter, which he did for more than two decades. My grandfather loved Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity and what it stands for. During my senior year in high school, I was considering Greek life and was looking at AGR house. My grandfather was in poor health that year and I remember vividly the day in early February when I told him I was joining the house. That was the last smile I saw on his face, as he passed away later that month.



*Elmer Pelton Sporting his AGR sweater in his younger days.*

My mother’s brother, Brian Pelton was the second-generation member of Alpha Gamma Rho. He was in the house from 1977-79. I enjoy studying in our library downstairs and looking up to see his face in one of the composites looming over me. My uncle is not much of a talker, so when we visit about AGR he doesn’t say much. However, I can see the joy in his face when we talk about his experiences in the house and what it means to be a member. Also, my mother Connie Pelton Kays, was a Rho Mate for Alpha Zeta during her college years. AGR was a part of many conversations across our dinner table and especially during holidays.



*Brian Pelton son of Elmer Pelton in his composite picture of his Jr. year.*

A common misconception among fraternity men is that a “legacy” is a prospective member that is related to an alumnus and should get an automatic bid to join the house. As a “legacy” myself, my understanding of what that means has grown into something much greater. It is a way for me to honor the memory of my grandfather and make my soft-spoken uncle proud.

A “legacy” should have a special respect for the fraternity because of the personal connection they have through a family member. “Legacy” is not simply an automatic bid, but a word that encompasses a respectful member carrying on a family tradition.

As a third generation “legacy” of Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity, it made my decision on which Greek organization to join fairly simple. “Legacy” is not just a simple title given to someone but a responsibility to pass on the Alpha Gamma Rho tradition in your family. I am currently working on trying to convince my younger brother to join AGR next fall. I hope that my future family members will also carry on the tradition of being a member of the best agricultural fraternity in the country. For me, being an Alpha Gamma Rho “legacy” is not just a fraternity term, but also a family tradition.



*Reagan Kays grandson of Elmer Pelton*



# Alumni President's Report

**1 Number 1 fraternity in the State of Kansas!** Topeka Capital Journal voted Alpha Gamma Rho the number one fraternity in its best 150 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the State of Kansas.

**4** The number of consecutive semesters that the Chapter House has been full. And from the looks of things to come this number will continue to grow.

**56** The number of undergraduate Brothers living at 1919 Platt. Capacity is 56 men.

**74** Total AGR undergraduate Brothers at KSU

**85** In 2012, the age of Alpha Zeta at KSU

We have had a busy year with alumni programs, chapter and alumni combination events and planning for the future. This summer's alumni tour included a tour of Frito-Lay, tour of the capital, a visit with Dale Rodman, Kansas Secretary of Agriculture, and his staff, evening social and the board meeting. The events were well attended and everyone had a great time. If you missed this one, we will have another summer tour, social and board meeting in 2012. Stay tuned for details.

A project that your board and several committees are working on is to build a sustainable business model that will insure both the short term and long term future of Alpha Zeta. I and your board welcome your ideas. Everyone involved is moving forward with this objective in mind. Those involved include both alumni and the undergraduate chapter. When asked to assist in this endeavor, whether it is your time or other ways, please do so.

On January 14, 2012, we will be meeting together to review the Strategic Plan. This Plan was developed 8 years ago and has been reviewed and updated in 2008. Primarily a chapter strategic plan it also involves alumni participation. If you would like a copy emailed to you please let me know. Also on that date will be the annual ECouncil training conducted for the newly elected ECouncil. Alumni are invited to participate.

Mark your calendar for 2 very important spring dates. February 4th Brother Keith Westervelt will host a tour of Blueville Nursery and treat us to his BBQ lunch, hear about AGR on campus and attend the basketball game. TA&M is in

town for the last time. See the schedule times and contact person in this Crescent. Saturday, March 3, Pink Rose. Celebrate 85th anniversary of Alpha Zeta at K-State. The chapter/alumni event of the year (next to Mother's Club Auction) will feature dinner, dancing, chapter award presentations and recognition of special alumni classes. Come and be a part of an ever growing special event.

The past two years it has been my extreme pleasure to visit with many of my pledge Brothers and those who helped mold us as AGRs. To see and experience the leadership of our older Brothers in the House helped instill in us the desire to "become better men" and continue their legacy. This experience has been clearly visible when I see what my Brothers have accomplished after college. I consider myself among the very lucky people who have experienced the opportunity to be part of an elite organization that prepares leaders in all fields of endeavor. And I would bet that you have that same feeling.

We gleaned many tangible and intangible assets from being an AGR. Is there any reason why we shouldn't want other young men to have the same experience? For them to carry AGR at KSU into the future business of leading agriculture, our state and our nation? I think not. So when you are asked to help secure the continued success of AGR at KSU please assist.

Agriculture, agri-business and allied fields are the bright spot of our economy and in need of young men who can step into the many job opportunities available now and in the future. Alpha Zeta has become even more of "the fraternity" and place to spend your college career. If I would be allowed to dream a little bit down the road I could see AGR expanding. But then that could be part of the sustainable business model that is being developed along with the short and long range plans of your alumni association and committees.

Thank you for letting me have the opportunity to be president of our AGR Alumni Association.

*Fraternally,  
Ron Hirst, Alumni Association President*



[www.ksuagr.org](http://www.ksuagr.org)



## From the Desk of the Noble Ruler

Greeting from the Alpha Zeta Chapter of Alpha Gamma Rho! As the semester begins to wind down, my time as Noble Ruler has come to an end. It has truly been an honor to serve the almost 1700 brothers that have passed through Alpha Zeta. Thinking back a year from now, I was just beginning my term as Noble Ruler, and how cool it was to be a president of a fraternity. Looking at it now, it was one of the greatest pleasures that I have had thus far in my life.

This summer was a great summer for Alpha Zeta. We were awarded with two plaques from Alpha Gamma Rho Nationals, one was for Honorable Mention for Best Scholarship Program and the other was Top Honor for the Crescent – Best Series.

I want to thank everyone who has sent in names for

potential member of Alpha Zeta. The house is constantly full but we are always looking for more members! So keep sending in those names!

I also want to thank my E-Council and everyone who has helped the house grow in a very positive way. My goal was to win the Maynard Coe award this coming summer at AGR National Convention in Vermont. The new E-Council has also made it their goal to achieve too.

Again, thank you so much to everyone who has made this year an awesome year to be Noble Ruler, I look forward to where the new E-Council is taking the house, it makes for a very bright future for Alpha Zeta.

*Fraternally,  
Kevin Morgan #1620*

## 2011 Rouletter



L to R Brother Calvin Dix, date Jamie Briscoe, Reiss Brunings date Heather Oentrich, Brother Reiss Bruning

The fall semester brought everyone’s favorite date party, Rouletter. As Kansas State’s oldest running date party, the tradition continued on November 5th. Almost all the active members and a few alumni made the trip out to Alma. DJ Brett Steiner kept everyone on the dance floor for most of the night. The new class had a blast poking fun of the old guys in their Rouletter skit. The night was definitely another fun Rouletter, and left everyone waiting for next year’s cider.

## Ag in Other Lands

**Attention Alumni!** Presently we have several undergraduates that are interested in agriculture in other countries. I know that several alumni have agriculture operations in South America and other foreign lands. Some of you alumni will be taking agriculture tours overseas. If your finances allow, why not take an undergraduate with you when you

visit your operation. Sponsor an undergraduate on the next tour you take. If you are interested, we will find you a highly qualified AGR undergraduate to join you!

Contact: Roger Johnson #607, Alumni Board at 785-537-1631 or [wjohn@ksu.edu](mailto:wjohn@ksu.edu)

## 2011 Alpha Zeta Executive Council

Noble Ruler <b>Kevin Morgan</b> Louisburg, KS <a href="mailto:kdmorgan@ksu.edu">kdmorgan@ksu.edu</a>	VNR Finance <b>Trenton Newell</b> Oskaloosa, KS <a href="mailto:tdnewell@ksu.edu">tdnewell@ksu.edu</a>	VNR Alumni Relations <b>Calvin Dix</b> Woodston, KS <a href="mailto:cddix@k-state.edu">cddix@k-state.edu</a>	VNR Mem. Development <b>Taylor James</b> Clay Center, KS <a href="mailto:tljames@ksu.edu">tljames@ksu.edu</a>
VNR Planning <b>Jeff Cather</b> Anthony, KS <a href="mailto:jcather1@ksu.edu">jcather1@ksu.edu</a>	VNR Activities <b>Cody Burke</b> Genoa, NE <a href="mailto:burkec@ksu.edu">burkec@ksu.edu</a>	VNR Recruitment <b>Garrett Lister</b> Marysville, KS <a href="mailto:glister@ksu.edu">glister@ksu.edu</a>	VNR Scholarship <b>Michael Welch</b> Haddam, KS <a href="mailto:mswelch@ksu.edu">mswelch@ksu.edu</a>
	VNR Operations <b>Dillon Cook</b> Hope, KS <a href="mailto:dcook09@ksu.edu">dcook09@ksu.edu</a>		



## Alpha Zeta Awards

Alpha Gamma Rho's leadership has always been strong among since our founding. One of our values is to enthusiastically recognize and reward accomplishments consistent with our Promise and Values. This year, Alpha Zeta has again maintained their standard of excellence by presenting a positive image of Alpha Gamma Rho in everything we say or do.

As a part of Kansas Best 150 celebrating Kansas' sesquicentennial, polls were taken finding the best personalities, cuisine, destinations, industry, education, sports, retail and community in the state. Votes were casted online on the Kansas Best 150 website and results published in the Topeka Capital-Journal. In September under the education portion of the Kansas Best 150, Alpha Gamma Rho was named Best Fraternity. In July under personalities, Brother Sam Brownback was named Best State Politician.

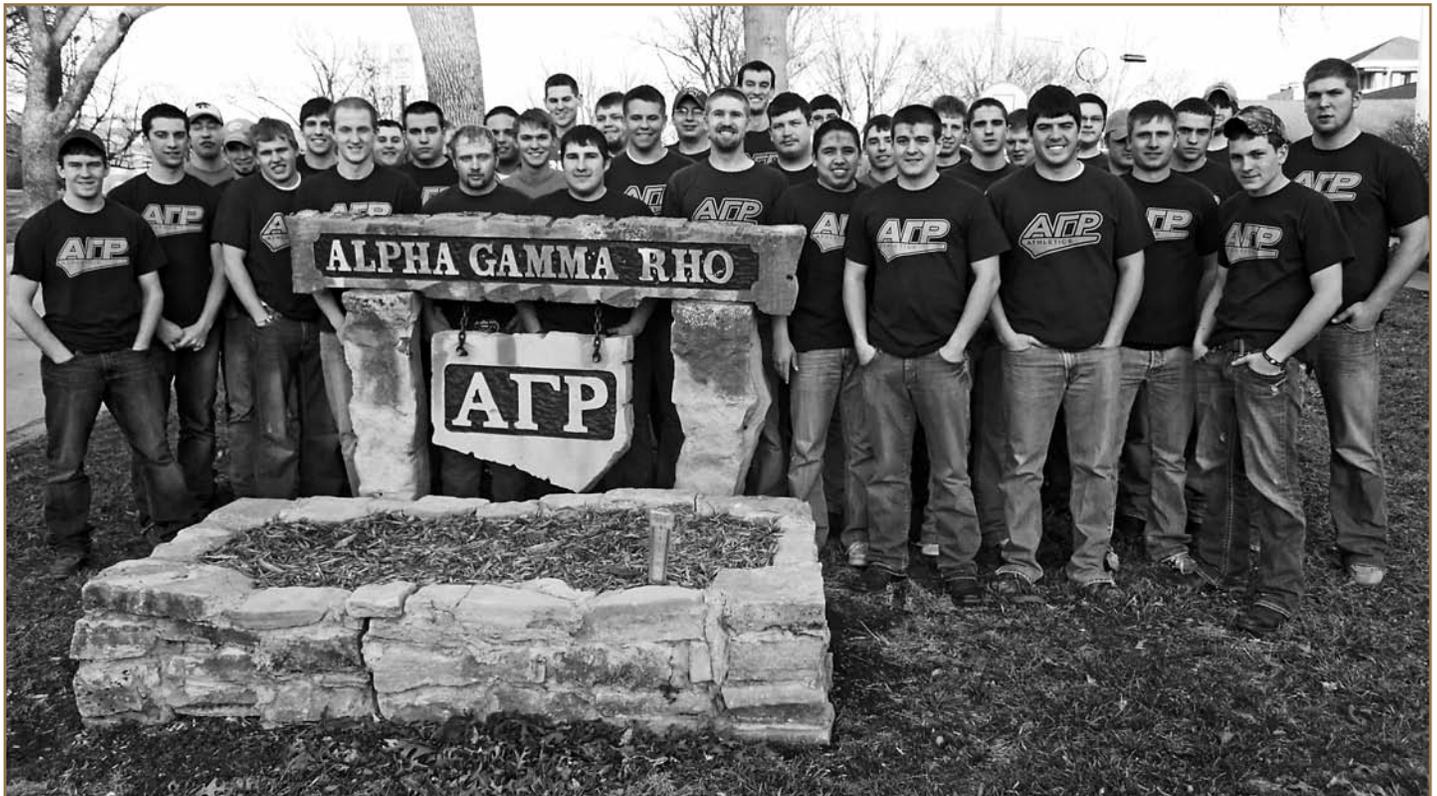
In national awards, Alpha Zeta was recognized for their excellence in three areas. Alpha Zeta was announced as one of the ten chapters in the nation to achieve gold status. In Best Scholarship Program Award, the K-State chapter received honorable mention. In Crescent, Alpha Zeta received Highest Honor in Crescent – Best Series.

At the undergraduate level, three awards were recognized as outstanding leaders for 2011. The Letter to Garcia Award, given to the hardest working officer on Executive Council, was conferred to Brother Trent Newell. The Outstanding Service to House Award was presented to Brother Chad

Nuelle. The Outstanding Involvement on Campus was awarded to Brother Logan Britton.

On campus, undergraduate brothers have eagerly engaged in the college and university. This year, Brother Andrew Strasburg serves as president of College of Agriculture Student Council while Brother Logan Britton serves as public relations director and Brother Colin Kirchoff serves as course and curriculum representatives. In College of Agriculture Ambassadors, five brothers represent AGR. These brothers are: Andrew Strasburg, Garrett Lister, Jeff Cather, Reagan Kays and Logan Britton. Brother Kays serves as College of Agriculture Training Coordinator and Brother Britton serves as Ag Orientation Coordinator. In the Student Governing Association, Brothers Garrett Lister and Reagan Kays serve as College of Agriculture Student Council. In Block and Bridle, Brother Ben Tokach serves as Little American Royal representative and Brother Levi Herrman serves as marshall. Brothers Kendal Clawson, Austin DeZeeuw, Taylor James and Ben Tokach were on the livestock judging team. Brothers Michael Welch and Andrew Scherrer were on the crops judging team.

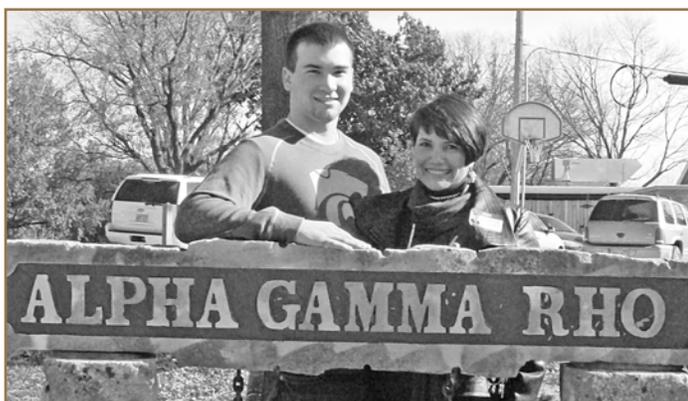
These involved and older members serve as role models for younger brother. In the years to come, those brothers will take their place as being the leaders in the College of Agriculture and Kansas State University and eventually the agricultural industry. As the New Year approaches, Alpha Zeta hopes to make 2012 just as successful as the last few years.





## Mom's Day 2011

This year at the Alpha Zeta chapter Mom's Day was held in conjunction with Founders Day, It was a successful day with more than 35 mothers, over 20 Alumni and a few Dads who were alumni also. It was great day to spend time with your Mother, the weather was perfect for a KSU football game against Texas A&M and what a game it was with four overtimes! The highlight for the day though for all was the delicious meal prepared by Alpha Zetas newest edition, Mary Hudson our new cook! Brisket sandwiches and many wonderful side dishes were enjoyed by all. After the game, everyone joined back at the house for the AGR Moms club biannual auction, which raised more than \$2,100.00. Most of the money raised is used to buy their sons something new in the chapter!



Brother Tanner Brunner and his mother Yvonne Brunner



Brother Luke Knight and his mother Sherri Knight

## Number One at 150

"Number One at 150" AGR event on February 4, 2011 prior to the K-State/Texas A&M basketball game.

Brother Keith Westervelt, grand master, owner and horticulturalist extraordinaire has agreed to host this event at his Blueville Nursery west of Manhattan.



### FEBRUARY 4, 2011

- 9:30 Hot Chocolate, Donuts, and a Tour of Blueville Nursery 4539 Anderson Road....
- 11:00 Start Gathering at the Nursery for a reception for alumni and families
- 11:30 Welcome by Ron Hirst
- 12:00-1:45 BBQ served by our Host... Keith Westervelt
- 12:30 The Future of Alpha Zeta AGR Updates By Bob Brockelman (you can't eat if you don't listen!)
- 1:00 Number "One at 150 Award" Presentation along with the alumni board and the active chapter officers
- 1:45+ Depart to watch the Wildcats beat Texas A&M

RSVP or Questions contact Dave Anderson:  
(913) 685-4850 or [dave@neuvision.com](mailto:dave@neuvision.com)

# ATP



# Lost Brothers

Unfortunately we have lost touch with these brothers. If you have their address and phone number would you please send this to us at 1919 Platt, Manhattan, KS 66502 Attn: Alumni Relations. We would really appreciate your help in getting back in touch with these brothers!

9	Albert Schmidt	492	Alfred Baker	1017	Randall Chrisler	1329	Aaron Dunn
18	Joseph Clair	495	Roger Tointon	1022	Michael Torrey	1347	Jason Lantz
54	Edward Stoneking	524	Rudolf Titsworth	1025	Keith Strasser	1348	William Buckles
107	John Haley	546	Rodney Symes	1048	Christopher Gooding	1351	David Newby
126	Carl Werner	572	Jack Hendrix	1052	Bryan Chadwell	1356	Michael Mazouch
139	Louis Larsen	577	John Nelson	1084	Kyle Vanover	1360	Jason Rethman
206	Edwin Kline	621	Stephen Reedy	1109	James Hahn	1366	Douglas Slawson
212	Wayne Ward	638	Melvin Rieman	1135	Darin Barta	1367	Steven Hall
220	Wayne Good	682	Donald Johnson	1144	Thomas Smith	1377	Matthew Van Allen
227	Max Roberts	696	Thomas Gatz	1170	Randal Schmidt	1401	Kurtis Frick
228	William Griffing	721	Robert Harmon	1202	Joseph Miller	1434	Benjamin Hansen
259	David Smith	735	Larry Winstead	1207	Brett Bishop	1435	Thane Combs
260	Charles Brackney	790	Thomas Klaassen	1209	Martin Lane	1441	Tim Pralle
272	Harold Carroll	802	Robert Geiss	1234	Christopher Royston	1449	Ethan Peck
291	Robert Condon	810	Philip George	1254	Quentin Brands	1452	Jeff Long
347	Harold Gentry	816	Stephen Combs	1263	Garrett Vanzee	1466	Eric Niehues
355	Eugene Snell	817	Edward Reece	1265	Scott Hatfield	1467	Cade Beesley
391	Garman Breitenbach	822	Rodney Tinney	1278	Jacob Debolt	1472	Caleb Mattix
392	William Smalley	824	Lawrence McCorgary	1290	Frank Beesly	1480	Kyle Rockhill
423	Mason Ely	838	James Williams	1298	Raymond Hare	1500	Christopher Hunter
426	Mark Drake	991	Mark Baker	1319	Sam Weinhold	1553	Christopher Holderman
429	Richard Hartman	999	Kent Jaecke	1328	Theron Combs	1603	Chris Cox
476	Jon Francis	1015	John Smith				

### Lost Brother Form

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

Send to 1919 Platt Manhattan KS, 66502 Attn: Alumni Relations

## ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD

<p><b>President</b> Ron Hirst #595 ron.hirst@yahoo.com</p>	<p><b>VP Chapter Relations</b> Rick Perkins #1045 rickperkins42@att.net</p>	<p><b>VP Awards</b> Dalton Henry #1570 dhenry@gmail.com</p>	<p><b>Director 3</b> Jason Grady #1325 gradylimousin@yahoo.com</p>
<p><b>Treasurer</b> Ben Brent #478 bbrent@flinthills.com</p>	<p><b>VP Fundraising</b> Steve Slusher #630 slushes@okstate.edu</p>	<p><b>Director 1</b> Chad Chase # 1364 chadc@thetrustco.com</p>	<p><b>Advisors</b> Josh Roe #1413 joshroe@agecon.ksu.edu</p>
<p><b>Secretary</b> Jeff Sutton #1341 suttonj@kfb.org</p>	<p><b>VP Property Management</b> Roger Johnson #607 wrjohn@k-state.edu</p>	<p><b>Director 2</b> Ken Smith #732 kalma@earthlink.net</p>	<p><b>Ryan Briener #1395</b> rmb5958@ksu.edu</p>



## Congratulations to the Fall 2011 AGR Seniors

**Jesus Manriquez #1648**

Hugoton, KS  
Major in Ag Business

**Levi Herrman #1535**

Scandia, KS  
Major in Animal Science and Industry

## Please Attend Pink Rose on March 3rd!

All alumni are invited to attend the annual Pink Rose Formal which will be held on March 3rd at R.C. McGraw's, 2317 Tuttle Creek Blvd., Blue Hills Shopping Center, Manhattan, Kansas. We will be in the Blue Hills Room next to the main restaurant. This will mark the fourth year that the Pink Rose Formal will be a joint undergraduate and alumni event and we look forward to continuing the success.

A summary of events for the day is as follows:

- 10:30 A.M. – Brunch at AGR House
- 12:30 P.M. – KSU Men's Basketball Iowa State
- 5:30 P.M. – Socializing in the Blue Hills Room, cash bar
- 7:00 P.M. – Formal Dinner
- 8:00 P.M. – Guest Speaker
- 8:30 P.M. – Scholarship Awards
- 9:00 P.M. – Dance

### RSVP Form for Pink Rose Formal

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ St. \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending Pink Rose dinner: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$28.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending Brunch: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$9.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

**RSVP Deadline:**  
**February 24, 2012**

Return registration to: Roger Johnson  
1931 Anderson Ave.  
Manhattan, KS 66502  
(785) 537-1631 • wrjohn@ksu.edu

### RECRUITMENT RECOMMENDATION

*Alumni are an integral part of Chapter recruitment. With your help, AGR can recruit high-quality members that will continue the tradition of success that is held by the Chapter. Any information you can provide us is extremely helpful. During the spring, we may be contacting some of you to aid us in the recruitment process; look for further information at a later date.*

Prospect's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of parent(s)/guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

High school attended: \_\_\_\_\_

Academic status (incoming freshman, JUCO transfer, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

Does the prospect have an AGR relative? List name, relationship, chapter: \_\_\_\_\_

Reference submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Send To:  
VNR's Recruitment  
Andrew Scherrer

1919 Platt Street  
Manhattan, KS  
66502

ALPHA GAMMA RHO  
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MANHATTAN, KANSAS 66502-2840

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66502**

**WANTED: ALUMNI NEWS**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Year Initiated: \_\_\_\_\_ Year Graduated: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Major: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Wife's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Children (names, ages, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

Suggestions to improve Alumni Relations:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please tell us any information about what is going on in your life:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please take time to fill out the questionnaire. By filling this out you will be helping to improve our alumni realations.



Send to:

VNR Alumni Rel.  
Calvin Dix  
1919 Platt St.  
Manhattan, KS 66502  
cddix@k-state.edu

Writer – Calvin Dix • Editor – Kevin Morgan  
Publisher – Ag Press, Inc.