Ruby Cup Back to Ames

It is with great pleasure we announce that the Iowa State Chapter of FarmHouse Fraternity was awarded the prestigious Ruby Cup at the Biennial FarmHouse Conclave earlier this month. The Ruby Cup is awarded annually to the top FarmHouse chapter in the international fraternity. This year, seventeen men from the Iowa State Chapter and House Director Mary Claire Mohrfeld attended Conclave in Columbus, Ohio. The men were both very excited and honored to receive the Ruby Cup after an extremely successful year. This past school year, the chapter swept the “Big Three”, winning Homecoming, Varieties, and Greek Week. The chapter also received the top fraternity grade-point average in the fall, and the second-highest grade-point average in the spring. This marks the seventh time the chapter at Iowa State has received the Ruby Cup, the latest being in 2002.

In addition to the Ruby Cup honors, the chapter received the FarmHouse Award of Excellence, the President’s Cup Conclave Trophy (most men travelling the most amount of miles to Conclave), and the Outstanding Chapter Award for their division. The chapter received first place awards for outstanding performance in the following programming areas:

- New Member Education
- Risk Management
- Intellectual Development
- Spiritual Development
- Financial Management
- Social/Moral Development

The chapter also received high marks in all other areas, including four second place awards. We, without a doubt, feel very blessed and fortunate to carry on the rich tradition of the Iowa State Chapter of FarmHouse Fraternity. Without the overwhelming amount of alumni support, the chapter would not have the resources to achieve this level of success. We would like to thank you for your continued support and encouragement and hope to continue this strong tradition into the years to come!
After two rush functions during the summer of 2010, the Iowa State Chapter of FarmHouse Fraternity extended nineteen bid cards to new graduated seniors and also freshman who had been in attendance at Iowa State. The bids were awarded to men from near and far, stretching from central Iowa to Colorado. The members of the fall 2010 pledge class have been involved with homecoming festivities, intramural sports, and of course academics. The average GPA for the fall pledge class is a 3.7, meaning they scored exceptionally well in high school or for some their previous years in college. Eighteen of the nineteen members are classified as in-house members meaning they contribute to the sixty three members living at 311 Ash Avenue. We have been blessed two consecutive years with a full house and hope to continue to grow and build men. Looking forward, FarmHouse is dedicated to targeting the Four-Fold for recruitment. Our recruitment events have been inspired by the ideals FarmHouse Fraternity was founded upon. We are always searching for true FarmHouse Men. If you have any suggestions for potential new members, please let us know.

Fraternally,

Tyler Kai
Leading the House In Order

Liam Vincent
Business Manager

Maintenance never ends, and Assistant Business Manager Adam Halbur and I have begun to understand the adage that a “homeowners work never ends”. Acting also as Summer Business Manager, the house has undergone significant transformation during the summer.

Summer projects around the house included: demolition of the 321 property, repairing shed floor, fixing shed door, and the removal of various landscaping items including trees and shrubs. Mary Claire had some innovative ideas for new landscaping in the northeast corner of our parking lot which we would add to later. After much detailed and efficient planning by the FH Action Committee led by alumnus Mr. Tim Becker; the 321 house was demolished and all of its contents were hauled away in the same day.

Work week is always an extension of the tasks the Business Managers wanted to accomplish over the summer but lacked the labor resources to do so. After the ground was seeded, the men began to set split rail fencing at the south end of the house working towards the west end. We have added approximately 8 spaces to the parking lot and a much cleaner overall look of FarmHouse. The grass lot will serve as extra recreational space for now with great potential for the future either a grill patio or volleyball court.

Interior work to the house done this fall and the summer includes: a new floor in the back stairwell, a new TV in the coliseum, new bunks for third floor pads, fire inspection, fire suppression system, and new washers and dryers. Several other small projects have been completed throughout the semester. The house is looking in top shape as we begin the new semester.

Fraternally,
Liam Vincent

Leave Your Mark on FarmHouse

For those of you who have not already done so, please make sure to join your brothers by purchasing an engraved brick bearing your name on our FarmHouse Builder of Men Patio. The Patio resides in our back yard. For further information please contact Drew Brown, our Spring Alumni Chairman:

drewabrown@gmail.com
311 Ash Ave.
Ames, IA 50014
New Member Program Remains Strong

Matt Skarshaug
New Member Educator

The Fall 2010 New Member Class was welcomed with 19 new members. After placing first in New Member Ed for awards for 2009, the 2010 New Member Education program set to continue those high standards and had lofty expectations. A new syllabus was laid out for the twelve-week process, which included roster tests, chapter tests from the revised pledge manual, and other activities that strengthened the traditions and pride in the house. We also continued to utilize local speakers to give presentations covering various topics. These included VP of Student Affairs, Dr. Tom Hill, Alumni Kurt Beyer and Steve Lonergan, and FarmHouse “Builder of Men,” CJ Gauger.

All the members showed great dedication toward the house, and they were very active throughout the fall semester. They participated in Yell-Like-Hell during Homecoming. Their determination and strive to win helped them place second in Yell-Like-Hell, while bringing home another overall Homecoming victory. Some of the members have started practicing for Varieties and will perform in the spring.

Activation Fall 2010:
A dual New Membership and initiation ceremony was held in the Campanile Room at the Memorial Union on September 12, 2010. Five members were initiated into the Iowa State Chapter of FarmHouse Fraternity in the Pearls Ceremony, and 19 new members were formally pledged in the Star Ceremony. A dessert celebration was held that afternoon to congratulate the new initiates, new members, and their families.

Fraternally,
Matt Skarshaug and Zach Tobin

A Break from Studying

Jake Venner
Social Chair

Although it may have appeared as though the men of FarmHouse were busy taking care of grades and winning Homecoming this fall, they were also busy taking care of the social four fold. We started the year off right with an evening at the new Ames Aquatic Center. We invited the women of Pi Beta Phi, our upcoming Greek Week pairing, to join in our fun, and everyone had a great time. As the semester started, we continued our social tradition of Friday After Class sports and dinner. To ensure a strong bond for Homecoming, we held several social events with our sorority pairing, the women of Gamma Phi Beta, including a dinner exchange and bus party.

The social highlight of the fall semester came during the annual FarmHouse Barn Party. Chapter members and their dates were treated to a delicious steak and potatoes dinner, and then spent the rest of the evening participating in various Barn Party traditions. There were the usual new member competitions including rope your date and the hay bale toss. Then the dates of several of the seniors participated in a competition, and one lucky girl was crowned Miss Barn Party 2010. There was also the Passion Master competition for the juniors. One of the featured activities was a square dance caller. We all learned a lot about square dancing, and had a great time dancing to the country music.

This past fall has been great to FarmHouse. We’ve excelled in every aspect of our fourfold, and we certainly didn’t sell ourselves short when it came to kicking back and having some fun.

Fraternally,
Jake Venner
Alumni: FarmHouse’s Greatest Asset

Through being a member of this fraternity for a few years, I have come to realize that FarmHouse is an organization that enables men to, as quoted from The Object, “inspire its members in seeking the best in their chosen lines of study” while in college.

After meeting many alumni, it appears to me that things don’t change after graduation. Every time I talk to another alum, I am indeed amazed at their experiences and accomplishments.

However, while I’m impressed by all our alumni have accomplished, I am even more amazed by their ability to be humble in their success. In my opinion, this is the quality that separates FarmHouse men from others.

I believe our chapter members could learn a great deal from alumni, including the trait above. One of my main goals as an alumni director was to get an alumni big brother program started.

The Lanthus, the monthly e-newsletter, is one of our most effective tools in communicating with alums. It was started two years ago and has continued to be a great way for FarmHouse men to stay up to date on the happenings of the chapter as well as to hear the stories of other alums. Drew Brown has done a great job of getting the Lanthus out, so be on the lookout for another issue coming soon.

Fraternally,
Steve Weinert

Balancing the Checkbook

The Iowa State Chapter of FarmHouse once again had a good financial year. Last year we had a surplus of just under $4,000. This number reflects the effort of last year’s treasurers, who were also able to collect a significant percentage of the outstanding house bills. This year we intend to continue to improve upon the past treasurers work and keep our house in excellent financial standing.

This year the house budget decreased to $378,459; this decrease was largely due to the increase in the amount of in-house members serving as sorority waiters and not eating at the house and a decrease in the number of members living out of the house.

This semester we have 63 members living in the house, which is one over the capacity of the house. House bills for the semester were $3,125 in house and $370 for out of house members. We continue to help those members who need extra time to pay their house bills by offering payment plans on an individual basis.

Our annual house bill comes to $6250, which is significantly cheaper than a comparable arrangement in the residence halls. The cheapest dorm room with a comparable meal plan (10 meals per week) would cost $3677 for a double room without air-conditioning, and $3240 for a meal plan. This comes to a total of $6917 for the year.

This financial difference is one of many advantages that FarmHouse is able to provide to its members, and continues to be an excellent recruitment tool.

Fraternally,
Ryan Helling
Colburn: Success after College

Christian Colburn is a rather recent alumni of the Iowa Chapter of FarmHouse, graduating in 2008. After graduation, Colburn was commissioned into the Navy (from NROTC) and went through nuclear power training. Since February 2010, he’s been stationed on USS OLYMPIA (SSN 717) out of Pearl Harbor. Also, Colburn recently obtained the rank of Lieutenant, Junior Grade and returned from a 6-month western Pacific deployment as a fully qualified submarine officer. Colburn has also worked on the boat as a Sonar Officer, Damage Control Assistant, and Main Propulsion Assistant.

While a student at Iowa State, Christian was Alumni Director, Treasurer, and Vice President. He was also heavily involved in the computer and web committee. Colburn also did Varieties, 3 years in the skit and was Variety Central Committee’s dramatics director his senior year.

Christian’s favorite memories are from Greek Week 2008, when he finally did lip sync (and loved it) and Homecoming 2005, which was the first big victory while Christian was there. On an international level, Colburn was part of the inaugural Power of 7 Seminar along with Heath Schechinger in Spring 2007 and went to the Conclave in Nashville with 7 of his pledge brothers in Summer 2006.

His cousin, a Kappa, recommended FarmHouse to Colburn, and he immediately felt a connection with the members and the other prospective members while attending the summer rush functions. Christian says he knew by the first week of the school year it was an awesome choice because he was surrounded by great role models, all willing to go out of their way to point you down the right path.

Christian’s FarmHouse heroes include CJ Gauger, for his continued lifetime involvement. He also admires Ron Orth, who was Association Board treasurer while Christian was there, a role he filled for 30 some years. Christian also wants to applaud the countless other active members he admired and was mentored by while living in the house and feels fortunate he has been lucky enough to stay in regular contact with many of them.

Burritoville

Burritoville, now a fall FarmHouse tradition, has continued to grow and expand in both quality and quantity. This fall, the men of FarmHouse sold a record number of burritos, over 850 in two hours, serving more than one burrito every nine seconds. Great leadership, organization, and marketing resulted in the success of the fall philanthropy.

Fall Graduates

Congratulations to the following December 2010 graduates:

David Morrison
Barret Schloerke
David Tapper
Soon after celebrating Christmas with friends and family, four FarmHouse Men departed for Africa. Jon Kempf, Gabriel Flick, Eric Parrot, and Micah Hayek were a part of a Cornerstone Church of Ames team sent to Serenje, Zambia. The main goal of the trip was to plant fruit trees to improve the nutrition of orphans, and at risk children, in the area. Cornerstone Church supports the Hope Children's Center which feeds nearly sixty orphans a day. Marlin Rice, former entomology professor at Iowa State, was the team leader and had developed a long term plan for the Hope Children's Center which included the fruit tree effort. Plans for the trip were instigated by Jon Kempf, senior, early in the fall semester.

The team’s agricultural efforts were a success as they planted over 110 fruit trees. Not all the trip was work, as the team interacted with the children through Bible lessons, songs, and games. The children even assisted in planting and watering the trees. Experiencing the local marketplace and landscape gave the team a great appreciation for all we are blessed with at home. Being immersed in this different culture provided everyone an experience will not soon be forgotten.

Did You Know?
The original Butter Cow Lady, Norma "Duffy" Lyon, is married to FH alum Joe Lyon. In her biography, The Butter Cow Lady, we found this statement. "She remembers two prominent fraternities in the department (Ag) - Alpha Gama Rho and FarmHouse. The FarmHouse men were nice to her and she later discovered that they were the better men, both scholastically and as gentlemen.”
**The Homesteader**

Feel free to attach additional sheets if necessary.

### Alumni News

**Occupation:**

**News/Comments:**

### Mentor Program

**Career Description:**

**Phone:**

**E-mail:**

### Recruitment Information

**Name:**

**High School/College:**

**Address:**

**Comments:**

**Phone:**

**E-mail:**

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*The Homesteader*

FarmHouse Fraternity

311 Ash Ave.

Ames, IA 50014

Return Service Requested

*The Builder of Men*