

December 20, 2016

Dear Mr. and Mrs.

Your son has recently become a member of Alpha Gamma Rho agricultural fraternity and I wanted to write to you to give you an insight into our fraternity.

Alpha Gamma Rho (AGR) is a national, **lifetime**, organization for young men enrolled in a college of agriculture and biological sciences at our nation's land grant colleges.

At SDSU, AGR became a chartered fraternity in 1964 (Alpha Phi chapter), the first fraternity on campus and the first fraternity to build a new house on Greek Row in 1974. We were also instrumental in establishing Greek Row, through South Dakota legislative action, coordinating our efforts with then SDSU president, Dr. H.M. Briggs.

It has always been our goal to select new members on the basis of **academics** (we have a minimum GPA requirement to join and a minimum to remain a member), **involvement on campus**, and what we consider to be **potential leadership qualities**. Our goal has always been to "**make better men**".

As for living at the chapter house, **we expect new members to do so**, after they have met the university's dorm requirements. Our housing costs are comparable to on and off campus costs, plus we employ a house cook, who provides week day meals for the men and guests. An "open" kitchen is provided for our members during those times that the cook does not work, such as weekends and holidays.

Each member of the chapter has responsibilities for the operation of the house, all of which lead to leadership opportunities in the future. We also **strongly** encourage our members to seek leadership positions on campus, in clubs and student government.

Our living/study quarters are one or two person, dorm style rooms, each provided with television and internet hookups.

Our downstairs facilities, besides the kitchen, include a large meeting room, dining hall, and a laundry room, with ample washing and drying appliances.

Our upstairs, main area, includes a study/library/conference room and a family-style room for entertaining guests.

We are currently advertising for a housemother, to replace our previous housemother, Mrs. Edith Riggs, who retired after 12 years of service to us, to be near her family in Colorado. The housemother's apartment, which has been recently remodeled, is attached to the rest of the house and the housemother's role is to supervise the men, assisting them in developing social skills, and overseeing the cleanliness and upkeep of the house.

Should your son pursue summer course work, the house is available to our members during those months as well.

**I want to stress that the Alpha Gamma Rho house is an alcohol free facility. No alcohol is**

**permitted in the house or on the premises.**

Our alumni association owns the chapter house and the association is represented by a nine member board, which meets quarterly. The board represents a vast cross section of our alumni from the last 52 years. The board's function is to oversee the physical needs of the chapter house as well as providing financial support for leadership opportunities for the collegiate members, as well as professional support for these men. Over the years, many of our collegiate members have secured employment through networking with our alumni.

I am proud of the more than 900 alumni of our chapter and the accomplishments they have attained in all walks of life. We, of course, by the nature of our membership requirements, find many of our alumni on farms and ranches across the upper Midwest. But the bulk of our alumni are in other far-reaching occupations, including banking, academic, veterinarian, medical doctors and a whole host of other careers. And, if asked, they will almost always mention AGR as one of the turning points in the pursuit of their career.

I have included the 2016 spring and fall issues of our alumni newsletter as representative of the kind of men we have aspired to develop in our 52 years of existence on the SDSU campus. I hope you enjoy reading about their careers. Perhaps you know some of them. I also invite you to go to [sdsuagr.com](http://sdsuagr.com) and view our website at your convenience.

Thank you for allowing your son to become an AGR and for taking the time to visit with me through this letter.

Sincerely,

John Wiese, president  
AGR/Alpha Phi Alumni Association  
SDSU Chapter

---