



Making Better Men
AGR 2nd Century at NDSU

Fireside Chatter

MARCH 2008

VOLUME 1

In This Issue...

Naming Opportunities Still Available!

Page 2

Campaign Hits \$315,000 in Two Months – Brant Bigger ‘00

Page 3

Epsilon Gifts are Tax Deductible... Cash is Only One Way to Give

Page 3

Campaign Now Targeting Leadership Gifts

Page 3

Points of Interest

Page 4

“Epsilon Needs You to Give Back” – Gregg Halverson ‘71

Page 4

2008 Founders Day News:

Brothers Jack Dahl and Dale Anderson have been elected to the Epsilon Hall of Fame – March 15, 2008.

House Corporation Recommends a Major House Renovation

Just in time for the centennial anniversary of Alpha Gamma Rho at NDSU in 2013, the Epsilon Chapter House is awaiting a major remodel and expansion. It’s been almost 40 years and 38 graduating classes since the last overhaul at 1303 N. University Drive – the best address on campus.

The need is clear

At 80-years old, it’s increasingly difficult to remain code compliant,

especially for fire prevention.

Growing maintenance and utility costs are budget busters. And the student housing boom on and off campus has the very real potential to leave AGR high and dry. “Step-down” fraternity housing is not appealing to today’s students.

With no air conditioning, limited technology capabilities, cramped living quarters and inadequate parking, it’s becoming increasingly

continued on page 2



The Chapter House was built for \$26,000 in 1928. The facility is sound, but space and technology needs have radically changed. Code compliance and parking are major issues.



House Corporation Recommends Major House Renovation (continued)

difficult for Epsilon to compete with new dorms, off-campus apartments and a growing list of fraternities. SAE just completed a major renovation project, and FarmHouse is razing their chapter house and rebuilding.

A quality chapter house does enhance recruiting and makes a powerful visual statement about the fraternity, its pride and its alumni. First impressions—inside and out—matter to new recruits, parents, faculty and visitors and may be the only opportunity our chapter has to state its case.

Many Options Explored to Resolve the Need

Over the past decade, Epsilon volunteers and area professionals have invested countless hours investigating building alternatives including renovating only, selling and rebuilding elsewhere, and remodeling and expanding on the present footprint.

Facility Study Conducted with Alumni

Thirty-eight alumni were tapped last spring to evaluate planning to date. The message was clear: “Renovate and expand the house, and purchase neighboring property for parking.” They also advocated the implementation of a scholarship program to enhance freshmen recruiting efforts and ease the crunch of upperclassmen expenses.

Volunteer Leadership has Stepped Forward

Hand-selected by House Corporation, a 17-member campaign committee – led by Gregg Halverson '71 - is committed to



Volunteer leaders have considered 5 objectives in determining a final strategy. Renovating and expanding the chapter house was soundly endorsed by an alumni study group.

raising \$1.75 million from Epsilon alumni to fund the project.

Features include:

- Six new scholarships per semester
- 2,900 square foot addition to the east, creating six new student rooms including a potential resident advisor suite and replacement stairwell
- Improved life safety features such as a remodeled south stair enhancing fire prevention and evacuation
- Expanded baths and laundry
- Improved and expanded study space
- Air conditioning and improved heating efficiency
- Expanded parking beyond the 9 current spaces available
- Improved computer access
- Handicapped accessibility on the main floor, including bathroom facility

Naming Opportunities Still Available!

All gifts to the 2nd Century Campaign are appreciated. For donors contributing \$1,000 or more, permanent acknowledgement of your gift will be made at the chapter house following the conclusion of the campaign. For donors interested in room naming opportunities, please contact Campaign Coordinator Bill Harbeke at 701-277-9681.

Size of Gift	Building Target
\$250,000	Member Education Room (Parlor), Scholarship Fund
\$100,000-\$249,999	Library, Dining Room
\$50,000-\$99,999	Living Room, Patio, Game Room, Second and Third Floor Study Rooms
\$25,000-\$49,999	6 New Resident Rooms Created by Expansion (including Resident Advisor Suite and Noble Ruler Suite)
\$10,000-\$24,999	Current Resident Rooms

Campaign Hits \$315,000 in Two Months...Volunteers are Making it Happen! – Brant Bigger '00

Epsilon alumni have not hesitated to invest their time and financial contributions in the 2nd Century Campaign. We've been working for 10 years at House Corp. on a chapter house strategy, and the support for our efforts has snowballed. In 2006 a steering committee of 16 alumni took House Corp's general ideas, turned them into a single concept, and tested it with targeted alumni from around the country. The response

was amazing. Brothers strongly encouraged us to make this vision a reality. This past September another group of volunteers stepped forward to raise the funds for our new facility and to build a campus leading scholarship program. And now, just two months into the quiet phase of the campaign, we have \$315,000 committed to the effort. What can we look forward to next? Consider Steve Wosick, immediate past Noble Ruler and soon to

be graduate, just made a \$5,000 pledge!

Please take advantage of this newsletter and upcoming events to help you better understand the goals and benefits of the 2nd Century Campaign. We need your commitment to realize this tremendous opportunity before us.

Epsilon Gifts are Tax Deductible... Cash is Only One Way to Give

Given the 501(c)3 status of the Educational Foundation of Alpha Gamma Rho based in Kansas City, MO, Epsilon donors are eligible to receive a tax deduction for their charitable giving to the 2nd Century Campaign. This partnership also enables Epsilon to accept non cash gifts. Consider the following options in lieu of cash:

- IRAs
- Marketable real estate
- Securities
- Qualified retirement programs
- Insurance policies
- Trusts
- Commodities
- Others

Please consult your personal financial advisor to identify the most appropriate gift option for you. Gifts to the 2nd Century Campaign can be made over a 5-year pledge period.

Campaign Now Targeting Leadership Gifts

Every dollar counts in the Epsilon 2nd Century Campaign. But at this stage of the game, the Campaign Committee is interested in talking with brothers and their families who are receptive to making a leadership gift of \$10,000 or more over a five year period. "Of course every dollar given is appreciated," said Gregg Halverson. "But to achieve our goal of \$1.75 million in a timely and efficient manner, we need gifts and pledges that will make an impact, including inspiring others to give generously." To achieve our goal of \$1.75 million Epsilon needs:

- 1 gift of \$250,000
- 2 gifts of \$100,000
- 4 gifts of \$50,000 – \$99,000
- 6 gifts of \$25,000 – \$49,999
- 23 gifts of \$10,000 – \$24,999
- 45 gifts of \$5,000 – \$9,999
- 172 gifts of \$1,000 – \$4,999
- 99 gifts of \$500 – \$999
- Up to \$499 - Many



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Points of Interest

- House Corp. has studied facility plans for 10 years
- Many options considered including sell and rebuild elsewhere
- Alumni feasibility study supports renovate and expand with parking purchase and scholarships
- Volunteers – outside of House Corp. - are serving in key leadership roles including a building committee chaired by Mike Vipond '82, and campaign committee led by Gregg Halverson '71.
- Campaign goal is \$1.75 million
- All Epsilon donors are eligible for tax benefits
- Pledges will be accepted over 5 years

“Epsilon Needs You to Give Back” – Gregg Halverson '71

Epsilon needs you. It needs all of us to “give back” to protect and promote our legacy of “making better men” for the agriculture industry. The chapter house – which is in serious need of repair - is not another dorm or apartment building. It is a home where young men train to become leaders; leaders who will continue to guide the agriculture industry of the Midwest for many years. Although it has been over thirty years since I graduated from NDSU, I continue to benefit from my AGR experience, and so do my sons. We are all “active,” not just the undergraduates in Fargo. Regardless of age or membership status, we share a continuing responsibility to (a) build the fraternity, (b) build our professional ties, and (c) grow individually to “become better men.” By investing in our chapter’s home and extending precious scholarship dollars to deserving students, we will invigorate the fraternity and position it strongly for continued service to NDSU students. AGR was the first fraternity on campus. With your help, we can ensure the next 100 years will be our strongest.

