



THETA CRESCENT

A PUBLICATION FOR ALUMNI OF THETA ★ ALPHA GAMMA RHO ★ UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI

FALL 2026

There is great excitement around Theta Chapter as we welcomed 16 outstanding new members this fall. Their decision to join AGR represents the future of Theta and the continuation of a legacy spanning generations.

This year, alumni and friends have stepped forward in remarkable ways to strengthen the chapter. In June, an incredible turnout of more than 100 alumni, brothers, family members, and friends gathered at the chapter house to celebrate the life and legacy of **Stephen A. Ellis '71**, whom you can read more about on page 4. Special thanks to **Doug Thomas '79**, his wife Pat, and their two sons for organizing the celebration.

That same spirit is driving growing alumni engagement. Brothers across generations are contributing ideas, leadership, and energy through efforts such as semi-annual alumni e-newsletters and Theta Alumni Connections Webinars. This momentum helped Theta earn the Highest Honor for Committed Alumni Corporation at the National Convention in Louisville this August.

Theta also celebrated several individual honors. House Director Arlene McCollum was named Mizzou Fraternity and Sorority Life's House Director of the Year, while **Kurtis Gregory '24**, **Kayden Guymon '13**, and **Jim Spain '03** received recognition from the CAFNR Alumni Association.

NEW YEAR, NEW MOMENTUM for Theta Chapter

UPDATES FROM THE BUILDING ASSOCIATION



Awards night of RAMS.

We also thank the fundraising committee for its continued work on the *Theta: A Proud Past, Promising Future* capital campaign. Meaningful progress has been made toward the \$1.2 million goal, but important work remains. Every gift helps secure Theta Chapter's future.

Our greatest opportunity remains recruiting the next generation of AGR men. Read more about how you can help on page 3.

Fraternally,
The Building Association Board of Directors

2026 golf tournament. From left: Beau Triplett '25, Aaron Mott '18, Preston Hardin '19, Nick Romine '17, Adam Slatyon '19, Caleb Robertson '17, and Caden Vanskike '19.



Teeing Up for Theta



AGR Memorial Golf Tournament Recap

The annual golf tournament, hosted jointly between the alumni relations and scholarship committees, was held July 18 at the Centralia Community Golf Course and led by **Aaron Mott '18**.

28 brothers and eight friends of AGR played, with **Mitchell Roling '07** and **Ryan Distler '07** emerging as the 2026 winners. Plaques will be presented at the 2027 Founder's Day Celebration.

Hole and team sponsors (contributing \$200 or a raffle prize of equivalent value) included:

MFA Inc. – Centralia
Seven Hills Livestock
Fabick CAT

Edward Jones – Justin Eddy
Americare – Senior Living
and Memory Care

The golf tournament netted \$1,100 toward the AGR Theta Chapter Scholarship Fund.

THANK YOU, LOYAL DONORS



Alpha Gamma Rho
**THETA: A PROUD PAST,
PROMISING FUTURE**

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR SUPPORT

We are grateful to the following alumni and friends who have generously supported the *Theta: A Proud Past, Promising Future* campaign. Your commitment reflects the strength of our brotherhood and helps preserve the chapter experience for generations to come.

Donors of \$1,000 and above will be recognized in appropriate giving categories in all campaign publications unless otherwise requested. Pledges of

\$5,000 and above will be displayed on a permanent donor plaque at the house.

Every gift brings us closer to achieving our goals. If you have not yet participated—or would like to make an additional contribution—please consider supporting the campaign and helping carry this important effort forward. To make a gift, scan the QR code to visit agrmizzou.causevox.com.

Sickle & Sheaf Society
(\$250,000 to \$9,999,999)
Stephen A. Ellis '71

Crescent Society
(\$100,000 to \$249,999)
Michael A. Peterson '83

Theta Society
(\$50,000 to \$99,999)
Brown Family
Clyde Brown '36
Phil Brown '67
Jim McRoberts '68
Wilson Family Gift
Troy C. Wilson '87
Grey C. Wilson '20
Matthew S. Wilson '24
Cord Harper '89

602 Society
(\$25,000 to \$49,999)
Steve Barnes '80
John E. Pfaff '83
Triplett Family Gift
Jamie L. Triplett '89
Chad E. Triplett '91
Curt D. Triplett '92

Maltsbarger Brothers
Richard Maltsbarger '93
Robert Maltsbarger '95
Ryland Maltsbarger '97
Kayden Kent Guymon '13

Rho Society
(\$15,000 to \$24,999)
Matthew Renkoski '74
Lynn Fahrmeier '81
Cary D. Sayre '88

Pink Rose Society
(\$10,000 to \$14,999)
Dale and Patricia Edmondson
In memory of
Stephen A. Ellis '71
Stephen D. Barr '69
Donald L. Cupps '75
In memory of
Thomas W. Henderson '75
Robert M. Thompson '80
Curtis W. Long '83
Sid Johnson '84
Aaron D. Atkins '88
Tony Robertson '89
Grant DeShon '90

Jeffrey T. Buckman '98
Matthew Thomas Henderson '04

Shield Society
(\$5,000 to \$9,999)
Zane V. Akins '59
Jerome C. Graeser '68
Jerry D. Gibson '71
Jim and Bev Edwards
Hegeman Heritage LLC
Michael A. Hanson '92
David M. Dougherty '83
Scott R. Eitel '88
Dennis Lee Speichinger '88
Bill Hayen '89
Robin and Matt Horstmeier '90
Thad Koenigsfeld '98
Kevin E. O'Farrell '02
Chase Monte '17

Green and Gold Society
(\$2,500 to \$4,999)
McCartney Family Gift
In memory of
Jack McCartney
Larry Ray Warren '65
Thomas B. McCartney '68
Ken McClure '72

Campaign Status at a Glance

Campaign Goal
\$1.2 Million

Total Raised
\$1,097,652

Donors
72



**SCAN
HERE!**

James Powell Carman '81
Dean Small '85
Bryan P. Setzer '86
Andrew K. Kapp '87
Curtis J. Fischer '99

Harvest Society
(\$1,000 to \$2,499)
Lowell F. Mohler '57
John S. Payne '63
John W. Wheeler '63
Jackson L. Burke '69
Leon C. Busdieker '75
David M. Minnick '75
Randall M. Spragg '75
In memory of
Tom Henderson '75
David W. Bonderer '77
William C. Vaughn '79
Michael T. Jobe '82
Justin L. Pfaff '91

"I joined for the tight-knit brotherhood. Theta Chapter has such a rich history and deep connections, and I wanted to be a part of it."

—Calum Brown '26

Welcome, Fall 2026 New Members!

Reid Baker
Linn, Mo.

Kasen Christian
Farber, Mo.

George Lawless
Columbia, Mo.

Cole Noltkamper
Wright City, Mo.

Sullivan Bird
Gallatin, Mo.

Landen Dodds
Jamesport, Mo.

Kyle Lewis
Mexico, Mo.

Jacob Qunlan
Mexico, Mo.

Calum Brown
Wildwood, Mo.

Seth Engeman
Montrose, Mo.

Brock Marshall
Malta Bend, Mo.

Chase Unger
Mexico, Mo.

Seth Campbell
Lubbock, Texas

Brayden Henderson
Edwards, Mo.

Owen Moody
Cottleville, Mo.

James Wetton
Hannibal, Mo.

"I joined because it provides opportunities to build lifelong relationships, develop leadership skills, and connect with individuals who share a passion for agriculture and service."

—Landen Dodds '26

REFLECTING ON A FANTASTIC SPRING



ACADEMIC AND PHILANTHROPIC
SUCCESS, CHAPTER GROWTH

The spring was another great one for Theta Chapter, with success in academics, philanthropy, recruitment, and brotherhood. We continued building on the momentum from the fall while creating new opportunities for our members and strengthening our relationships across campus and with our alumni.

Academically, 20 brothers made the dean's list, continuing our chapter's strong commitment to scholarship. Our members continue to do a great job balancing academics with their involvement in Alpha Gamma Rho.

Philanthropy was also a major part of the semester. We participated in RAMS and Greek Week with Alpha Phi, giving our brothers opportunities to get involved on campus and build stronger relationships within the fraternity/sorority life community. The AGR Classic cattle show was another major success, raising \$10,000 for the Lizzy's Walk of Faith Foundation. We are proud of the work our members and alumni put into the event.

Recruitment continued to be strong. We are excited to have these 16 new brothers and look forward to seeing the impact they will make.

We also introduced our new Theta Alumni Connections Webinars, designed to connect current members with alumni from a variety of careers and backgrounds. We hope these webinars create opportunities for mentorship, career advice, and meaningful connections between current members and alumni.

Looking ahead, we are especially excited for Homecoming and our pairing with Pi Beta Phi. We are also looking forward to Alumni Weekend on November 7, when Missouri takes on our old Big 12 rival, Texas.

Finally, we are excited to be back in the AGR house, with Phase 1 of 3 of the renovation completed thanks to the incredible support of our alumni through the *Theta: A Proud Past, Promising Future* capital campaign. We are grateful for their investment in Theta Chapter and excited for what our chapter's future holds.



Fraternally,
Beau Triplett '25
VNR Alumni Relations



Brothers take a break from the activities of Cattle Show 2026.



BRINGING BROTHERS TOGETHER

Theta Alumni Connections Webinar

Where the Brotherhood Begins was held virtually September 1. The program introduced Theta Chapter's newest initiates to alumni across generations while creating opportunities for mentorship, networking, professional development, and lifelong involvement with Alpha Gamma Rho.

The webinar drew 34 attendees: 15 alumni, 15 new initiates, and four upperclassmen. VNR of Membership Development **Lake Reid '23** played a key role, coordinating with the initiates and organizing their introductory slides.

Alumni shared where they live, their initiation year and, in many cases, their continued AGR involvement. The new initiates then introduced

themselves, sharing their hometowns, career plans, hobbies, and reasons for joining AGR. The 50-minute program concluded with questions and conversation.

Alumni attendees included **Larry Warren '65, David Birk '69, Jim Edwards '73, Rick Ayers '84, Ryan Millhollin '98, Bret Naylor '05, Jacob McKiddy '12, Kayden Guymon '13, Zach Ayers '16, Mason Taylor '16, Caleb Robertson '17, Isaiah Boon '19, Justin Eddy '21**, and one guy on an iPad whose name we didn't get.

The undergraduates were exceptionally prepared and professional. The webinar also continued to attract newer and younger alumni participants, with nearly two-thirds of alumni attendees from the classes of 2005 or later.

ALUMNI INVOLVEMENT KEEPS OUR BROTHERHOOD STRONG

Alumni participation is essential to Theta Alumni Connections. Join our next webinar—date coming soon—to meet our newest members and strengthen AGR brotherhood across generations.

Alumni attendance represented 30% of those registered, below the typical 50% webinar attendance rate and the rate for Theta's first Alumni Connections webinar in June. Only two alumni from the June program returned, an area worth exploring as the program continues.

Overall, the webinar successfully met its goals of connecting alumni and undergraduates and strengthening lifelong engagement with Theta Chapter.

Fraternally,
Ben Brown, Alpha Zeta '12



Brothers receiving an award after Founder's Day 2026.

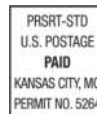
Inside, you'll find an update from the Building Association, alumni remembering Stephen Ellis '71, chapter news, and so much more.



THETA CRESCENT

Alpha Gamma Rho
University of Missouri
P.O. Box 442100
Lawrence, KS 66044

Address Service Requested



Save the Dates

NOVEMBER 7

AGR Alumni Tailgate (vs. Texas)

FEBRUARY 27, 2027

Founder's Day and CAFNR Unlimited

A TRUE LEGACY BUILDER

Theta Remembers
Stephen Ellis '71

Every AGR brother shares the responsibility to respect and support their chapter. Very few Theta alumni reflect this better than the late **Stephen Ellis '71**, who spent years working tirelessly to develop and nurture the Alpha Gamma Rho brotherhood at Mizzou. Theta Chapter honors the life and legacy Stephen left behind when he entered the Chapter Eternal on March 15, 2026.

FINDING HIS WAY

Stephen was born in Buffalo, New York, and moved at a young age with his family to Springfield, Missouri. His family's dairy farm operation instilled a rigorous work ethic that stuck with Stephen throughout his life and led to him studying agriculture at the University of Missouri.

When Stephen joined Alpha Gamma Rho in 1971, he began a commitment to the fraternity that would last far beyond college. Every AGR member he met became a true brother to him, and those authentic connections led to a lifetime of fraternal investment.

LIFE BEYOND MIZZOU

After college, Stephen entered the agribusiness industry and sold animal health products in the Midwest. By the 1990s, he was traveling across the globe to introduce new products in places like Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Siberia. His international trips strengthened Stephen's belief in the value of building relationships with people of different backgrounds.

Stephen maintained his fraternal responsibilities throughout his busy career by joining Theta Chapter's alumni board, providing insight as a chapter advisor, and eventually serving as director emeritus on the Theta Alumni Association board. One of his greatest fraternity accomplishments was helping to initiate more than 400 young men into Alpha Gamma Rho, spreading the brotherhood that was a cornerstone of his own life.

AGR HONORS

Stephen's longtime fraternity involvement, frequent national convention attendance, and generous financial support are a testament to his lifelong loyalty. He was selected for the Coleman Club and inducted into the Theta Chapter Hall of Fame, and the MU College of Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources inducted Stephen into its Alumni Leadership Society in 2012.

No matter where he was in the world, Stephen found a way to attend every Mizzou home football game from September 1970 to November 2019. He would even commute from as far as Moscow back to Columbia to support his beloved Tigers.

Stephen left an indelible mark on his brotherhood and did everything he could to support Alpha Gamma Rho's growth. Upon his passing, he even left a generous estate gift to our *Theta: A Proud Past, Promising Future* capital campaign. Theta Chapter is proud to celebrate Stephen's unforgettable legacy of AGR devotion.