

Oklahoma State University

OKLAHOMA MU CHAPTER

Inaugural
Founders' Day Ceremony



Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity

**Saturday, February 16, 2002
at Meditations Reception Hall**



Founders' Day Ceremony

The inaugural Founders' Day Celebration is being presented by the Oklahoma Mu Chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon on Saturday, February 16, 2002. Conceived as a way of honoring Sigma Alpha Epsilon Housing Corporation board members for their outstanding achievements on behalf of the chapter, this day is a tribute to all who have given countless hours and resources for the betterment of the Order.

Sigma Alpha Epsilon is a fraternity built on great pride and a tradition of excellence, and our many distinguished alumni have served to enhance this throughout the years. Oklahoma Mu has seen many brothers rise to positions of great respect since our founding in 1931.

Congratulations to all who have earned this honor.

Program

Welcome

XXX XXXXX 'XX

Chapter Update

Tyler Wellhausen '01 (Chapter EA)

Honored Brothers

Gene Smelser '38	Mickey Smith '43	Gerald Bradshaw '47
Pete Clark '47	Jack Vassar '47	Bill Veazey '49
Keith Hinchey '52	Pat Hancock '54	Phil Offill '54
Bob Rader '54	Jerry Reed '60	Bill Leming '61
Bill Manera '63	Steve Baker '65	John Bensinger '65
Bill Farr '66	Jim Nickles '66	Rick Wagner '66
Tom Weirch '66	Don Wiechmann '67	Skip Oxford '68
James Pickel '69	Bob Taylor '69	Rod Edwards '70
Jim Oswald '70	Bill White '70	David Almon '71
Brad Petty '72	Mike Ruby '72	Bob Austin '73
Mark Gish '74	Jim Skaggs '74	David Towe '74
Rick Hundley '76	Bill Farrell '77	Pat Morgan '77
John Polkinghorne '77	Dan Hart '78	Bob McGrew '81
Charlie Peaden '81	Chris Norris '82	John Blevins '84
Todd Farris '84	Justin Hoose '84	Doug Konarik '84
Eric Stall '84	Mark Wilmes '84	Chris Busby '85
Jim Tero '85	Byron Corwin '86	Johnny Drake '87
Scott Leming '88	John Stobbe '88	Greg Mahaney '89
Chris Myers '93	Chris Grandstaff '98	

* Not all brothers responded to biography inquiries and therefore they have are listed further in the program.

Chapter House Construction Plans

Jim Skaggs '74 (Board President)

Closing Remarks

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OKLAHOMA MU CHAPTER

2002 Honored Brothers

Gene Smelser '38 has always been a prominent force in both the Oklahoma Mu Chapter and the Oklahoma State athletic department. He enrolled at OSU on a basketball scholarship and earned All-American honorable mention in 1941. He eventually was hired as the University's first full-time assistant basketball coach in 1948. During his undergraduate years, Brother Smelser was integral in establishing the chapter's high academic standards, tremendous athletic programs, and character-building rules and regulations. He has since retired after a productive career in the restaurant business, where he took his catering business into the ranks of national notoriety. He links his success in life to the experiences from the Oklahoma Mu.

Gerald Bradshaw '47 was a fixture on the Board during the 1950s and 1960s, when he served 10 years as the Treasurer. Currently, Brother Bradshaw is the chairman of the Bradshaw Agency, an insurance and finance firm. He is married to Jeanette and they have three children, David, Ann, and Sara. When Brother Bradshaw thinks back to his history with the chapter, it is not limited to merely the brothers but the life skills learned and the fond impression that Mom Woods left upon him.

Pete Clark '47 graduated in 1950 with an industrial engineering degree and served on the Board in the mid-80s. He has since retired, which gives him plenty of time to spend with his wife Barbara. He and Barbara have four children, Robert W. (48), Lisa (46), David (40), and Julia (37) in addition to 15 grandchildren. Brother Clark believes that the new housing project will help level the playing field of the Greek system at OSU.

Jack Vassar '47 was known as "Country Boy" during his undergraduate years in the fraternity. That same "country boy" is now president of Vassar Manufacturing Company, a farming equipment company in Oklahoma. Brother Vassar holds Oklahoma Mu in high esteem, evident from his service on the Board in the late 70s and early 80s. He attributes much of his current success, both social and professional, to the experience in SAE. Brother Vassar, a business administration graduate, is married to Pat and has four children, Debra, Jacqueline, Kendall, and Kevin.

Keith Hinchey '52 graduated with an architecture engineering degree in 1956 and is currently the president of his own consulting firm. He and his wife Shirley have four children, Kevin, Carrie, Michael and Mary along with 10 grandchildren. Brother Hinchey played an important role in establishing the chapter's progression during the late 70s and early 90s while serving on the Board for four years. Although he has many fond memories of his involvement in the chapter, he found the social events very influential and fun.

Bill Rader '54 has always been a very busy man, but he has always had time to help the Fraternity. After graduating with a marketing degree in 1958, Brother Rader began working for Capital West Securities and is now senior vice president of investment banking. He and his wife Judy have three children, Jeff (43), Brad (39) and Christy (35). Brother Rader gave his time to the chapter in the early 1980s while serving on the Board. He cites his experience in the Oklahoma Mu Chapter as one of the influential entities in his current professional and social life.

Jerry Reed '60 has been integral to both the legacy and potential of the Oklahoma Mu Chapter since graduating with an accounting degree in 1962. Following graduation, he went on to earn his law degree in 1965 and is now a private practicing attorney in Oklahoma. He and his wife Janice have one son, Jay, also an alumnus of the Oklahoma Mu Chapter. Brother Reed sites his son's involvement in the chapter as the main reason for his participation on the Board. He served as President from 1992 until 1995. His time spent helping and leading the chapter has provided some very unforgettable experiences.

Bill Leming '61 graduated with a business education degree in 1964. He is currently an agent for State Farm Insurance. Before graduating, he left his mark on OSU athletics when he was the last school quarterback to register a victory over Nebraska. Brother Leming and wife Marilyn have two children, Scott, a former Oklahoma Mu Board member, and Lauri, (30). Brother Leming, a Board member for eight years, has seen how the chapter has affected both him and others after initiated into Oklahoma Mu.

Bill Manera '63 has certainly seen the Oklahoma Mu Chapter travel far since graduating in 1966. During his time as an undergraduate, he witnessed low retention rates at the hands of the Vietnam War. Upon returning to the chapter in 1985 as a member of the Board, he was able to see an increase in both membership as well as general interest in the chapter. During his time on the Board, from 1985 to 1990, Brother Manera served as Treasurer and President.

He and his wife Karen have four children, Rachel (33), Laura (32), Sam (25) and Josh (24). Brother Manera is also an avid bicyclist. He considers his time at the fraternity to be very rewarding, both during his undergraduate years and those spent on the Board.

Steve Baker '65 is a commercial real estate broker with CB Richard Ellis in Tulsa. After graduating in 1969 with a business administration degree, he returned to the Oklahoma Mu Chapter in the 1980's, serving on the Board for eight years. He and his wife Marcia have two children, Amanda (14) and Andy (18). After seeing the evolution of the chapter, Brother Baker is excited about the new era of SAE with the renovation of the Chapter House.

Bill Farr '66 has become a magnet for Oklahoma Mu memorabilia since taking over as the Housing Corporation Historian. Hopefully, his wife Janis does not mind the boxes of chapter history that are stored in their garage. He and Janis have two sons, Brenner (25), an Oklahoma-Mu alumnus and Taylor (20), who is an active member of the chapter. Brother Farr, who graduated in 1966 with a business degree, believes that only part of the chapter's history is found in tangible items. Brother Farr is currently an agent for New York Life and resides in Tulsa and has been associated with the Board since 1977.

Don Weichmann '67 graduated in 1970 with a political science degree. He and his wife Jenny have two children, Heidi (27) and Gabe (23). Brother Weichmann returned to the chapter in the late 80s when he served on the Board. In the early 90s, he held the positions of President and Vice-President. Brother Weichmann is very excited about the potential the new house construction project will bring.

Skip Oxford '68 has taken much of his undergraduate experience at the Oklahoma Mu Chapter and turned it into a prominent career at the Industrial Packaging, Inc. He and his wife Sandra have two children, Lindsay (25) and Benjamin (23), who is currently an active member of the chapter. After graduating with a business administration degree 20 years prior, Brother Oxford returned to the chapter and served on the Board from 1988 until 1992, helping to promote the same brotherhood and career building practices that he learned as an undergraduate.

James Pickle '69 understands the effect of a new Chapter House for a fraternity or sorority. As co-owner of Smith&Pickle, a construction firm that has helped build Chapter Houses at the University of Oklahoma, he knows that Oklahoma Mu can further it's potential by staying current with the other Greek structures on campus. Brother Pickle served on the Board in the early

90's and graduated in 1972 with an agriculture economics degree.

Bob Taylor '69 earned a marketing degree in 1972 and is currently an attorney in the Tulsa area. He and his wife Lana have one son, Zachary (22). Although he has been very busy over the years, he has still found the time to give back to the chapter while serving on the Board. Brother Taylor has brought the leadership experience that he gained while at the chapter into his current profession.

Mike Ruby '72 witnessed the chapter performing at it's best while he was an undergraduate. Now as a Vice-Chairman of the Board, he says he is witnessing much of the same drive and determination in the current chapter. Brother Ruby is currently a commercial account manager at Oklahoma Gas & Electric. He and his wife Pam have three children, Steve (23), Nan (19), and Katelyn (15). He has served on the Board for three years and is excited about Oklahoma Mu's potential.

Mark Gish '74 has seen the Oklahoma Mu Chapter go through a number of changes since graduating in 1977 with an agriculture economics degree. He is currently president of BancFirst, a banking, investment, and lending firm in Oklahoma. He and his wife Gale have two children, Anna (18) who will be attending OSU next year, and Thomas (14). While on the Board during the mid-1980s, Brother Gish served as Treasurer. He feels that the new house construction project will be another important change for the chapter.

Jim Skaggs '74 has been an instrumental factor in the both the continuing success of the chapter and the new house construction project. After graduating in 1978 with a business administration degree, he went into the business world, eventually working his way up to president of Charter Financial Group. He and his wife Lynne have one daughter, Kelsey (15), who is a high-school freshman. Brother Skaggs has served on the Board for a total of eight years and has held the title of President since 1995. He feels that his undergraduate time at the Oklahoma Mu Chapter not only provided life-long friendships but also was instrumental in shaping his adult personality. Brother Skaggs is also very excited by the chance to improve the Chapter House.

Rick Hundley '76 says that the style of the new Chapter House is impressive and coming from him, that must be good. For nearly 25 years, he has worked as a professional hair stylist at S.R. Chas Contemporary Hair Design. He believes that keeping some of the "old house" is important. Brother Hundley graduated in 1979 with a business management degree. He and his wife Donna have two children, Kaci (21) and Chase (17).

Bill Farrell '77 is in his first year as a board member for SAE. Brother Farrell graduated OSU in 1978 with a degree in environmental geography and is currently the vice president of sales for Custom Sales Incorporated. He is married to Rene and they have two children, Kyle (14) and Alison (12). While Brother Farrell's most unforgettable moment at the Oklahoma-Mu was initiation and that speaks volumes about his time spent with the chapter.

John Polkinghorne '77 graduated in 1980 with a zoology degree and later went on to earn a doctorate in dental sciences from Oklahoma University College of Dentistry in 1984. He is currently a private practicing dentist in Edmond. Brother Polkinghorne joined the Board in 1986 and held the title of President in 1990 and 1991. He and his wife Sharen married in 1995. Brother Polkinghorne attributes much of his professional success to his experience during his time as an undergraduate member of the chapter. I contribute a lot of the team building and interpersonal skills I learned early in life to the experience of being a part of the fraternity system.

Dan Hart '78 graduated in 1981 with a bachelor of science degree. He and his wife Kim have two daughters, Leigh Anne and Lauren. He recently finished his first year on the Board and is looking forward to another productive year with the chapter that gave him so many "wonderful friends and memories."

Bob McGrew '81 graduated in 1984 and is currently vice president of Koch Agriculture Company. He and his wife Lana have two daughters, Morgan (13) and Madison (9) and one son, Mitchell (12). Brother McGrew returned to the chapter in 1990 serving as Board Treasurer for five years. Looking back at his undergraduate years, he appreciates the long-lasting brotherhood that continues to developed within the chapter.

Charlie Peaden '81 will be concluding his first year on the Board, serving as Scholarship Chairman. As a political science professor at East Central University, he provides a strong representation of the typical college student and what is necessary for academic excellence. He and his wife Lisa, whom he married in 1995, also live near the Chapter House, allowing for frequent visits. Brother Peaden views the chapter's new house construction project as a tremendous opportunity for past, current and future brothers.

Mark Wilmes '84 has served on the Board as the Secretary since 1994. Over that time, he says that the active Oklahoma Mu Chapter continues to impress him. Brother Wilmes, a retail sales development specialist at Oklahoma Publishing Company, graduated in 1987 with a HRAD degree. He and his wife Jennie have two children, Andrea (6) and Jonathon (3).

Chris Busby '85 has been an integral part of the both the new house construction project and the overall success of the chapter. After graduating with a finance degree in 1987, he went to work for The Williams Companies and is currently senior business development analyst. Despite a heavy workload, he returned to the chapter in the form of Housing Corporation House Manager and later as the Chapter Advisor. For the past five years, Brother Busby has worked tirelessly to instill in the active chapter the same ideals and principles that made joining the Oklahoma Mu house one of his most important decisions. He is also excited about the potential that the new house will have on the future of the chapter.

Byron Corwin '86 has had a unique view of the new house construction project for the past seven years while serving as the Housing Corporation Treasurer. As a CPA and a senior audit manager with KPMG, Brother Corwin is certainly the right person to handle the financial aspects of the house. He has blended his professional knowhow with a genuine desire to see the house succeed. Brother Corwin, who graduated with an accounting degree in 1989, is married to Marcie and has two children, Logan (4) and Ian (1).

Greg Mahaney '89 graduated in 1992 with a human resources degree and is currently working as a mortgage agent at Express Mortgage. He and his wife Mindy have two children, Hayden (3) and Grant (1). Brother Mahaney has served on the Board for four years and is very excited about the new house construction project. Brother Mahaney is also an avid golfer who attends the chapter golf tournament every year.

Chris Myers '93 graduated in 1996 with an accounting degree and is currently a financial analyst with Williams Communications. He recently joined the Board in December and is looking forward to the potential that the new house construction project will bring.

Board Member Thoughts

“Oklahoma Mu was exceptionally good for me and it opened up many doors to my professional life. I value it very highly.” — **Gene Smelser '38**

“It was very flattering for an old country boy to be rushed, pledged and join the fraternity. I learned such a tremendous amount and it has been just a steadfast experience.” — **Jack Vassar '47**

“I’m for the new house construction project and it is something we need to do to get up to speed with the University and the rest of the houses on campus.” — **Pete Clark '47**

“I have a pleasant recollection of many things but especially of Mom Woods, anyone who knew her would have been touched by her.” — **Gerald Bradshaw '47**

“The Plantation Parties that we had were always a wonderful event. We had a dinner dance and it was just a wonderful time.” — **Keith Hinchey '52**

“My oldest and dearest friends even today are my pledge brothers.” — **Bill Rader '54**

“My most memorable moments of Oklahoma Mu are my son’s initiation and receiving the Order of the Lion, which the chapter presented to me at the Plantation Party in '95.” — **Jerry Reed '60**

“I have had fathers come up to me and say how thankful they were to see the change in their son’s lives after going through Oklahoma Mu. That is what the Fraternity is there for and that is what it does.” — **Bill Leming '61**

“The first thing that comes to mind about the SAE house is the lifelong friendships that I’ve developed that began during my college years.” — **Bill Manera '63**

“I am happy to see a turn around in the chapter during the past two years. A new house is needed.” — **Steve Baker '65**

“The stories of the chapter are really important. They are what make up the chapter’s history and can never be taken away.” — **Bill Farr '66**

“I am very enthused about the new house plan and project and feel it would be a fitting gift for those from the 1920s and on forward who have served in the house and a great way to give back to them. I think it is a great, great idea.” — **Don Wiechmann '67**

“Basically Oklahoma Mu helped develop my overall people skills for the future.” — **Skip Oxford '68**

“SAE gave me the opportunity to meet lifelong friends.” — **Bob Taylor '69**

“For the chapter to compete at Oklahoma State University it is critical that we update our current housing situation.” — **James Pickle '69**

“I feel like our house right now is the same quality house we had then (when it won the John O. Mosely Zeal Award in 1972.” — **Mike Ruby '72**

“I am happy to see that the new design will keep some of the aesthetic appeal from the old chapter house.” — **Rick Hundley '76**

“The new house construction project is very much needed, if we are to remain competitive and one of the best houses on campus!” — **Mark Gish '74**

“I will always have very fond and grateful memories of sharing a wonderful college experience with the great guys and gals who were a part of what happened at 1308 W. 3rd from 1976 to 1980.” — **John Polkinghorne '77**

“The day I was initiated was my most memorable day at Oklahoma-Mu.” — **Bill Farrell '77**

“A memory I will never forget is the first time I took a dip in the chapter room pool.” — **Dan Hart '78**

“The most important thing is that the time is now to create an environment for the next century for the young men coming into the house.” — **Jim Skaggs '74**

“Some of the most memorable moments were Senior speeches in chapter. You could see just what the fraternity experience had meant to each brother. Some humorous, some reflective, but all worth hearing.” — **Bob McGrew '81**

“I feel the chapter is embarking on an exciting and challenging period in its history. This could be a dawn of a new era in which Oklahoma Mu becomes the epicenter for SAE and Greek life in general for the entire nation.” — **Charlie Peaden '81**

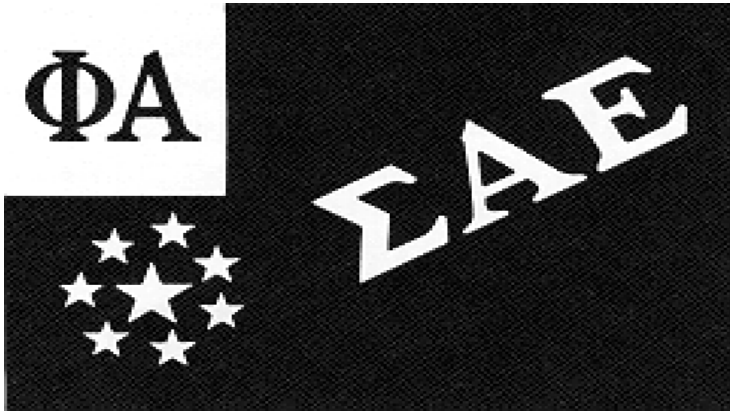
“The current guys in the house continue to set goals higher than we expected them to set and they continue to be able to do more in terms of restoring the history and tradition of the chapter that we have not seen in a long time.” — **Mark Wilmes '84**

“The new house construction project is expensive, but it must be done. We'll be so damn proud when it's done.” — **Chris Busby '85**

“The time is right for a new house. This project is the culmination of six to seven years of planning and preparation by the Corporation Board.” — **Byron Corwin '86**

“I'm glad to see that we are moving forward but at the same time keeping the tradition that is very important to our fraternity.” — **Greg Mahaney '89**

“I think the new house construction project is long overdue and will be a great rush tool. I look forward to helping get this accomplished and seeing the final result.” — **Chris Myers '93**



The True Gentleman

The True Gentleman is the man whose conduct proceeds from good will and an acute sense of propriety, and whose self-control is equal to all emergencies; who does not make the poor man conscious of his poverty, the obscure man of his obscurity, or any man of his inferiority or deformity; who is himself humbled if necessity compels him to humble another; who does not flatter wealth, cringe before power, or boast of his own possessions or achievements; who speaks with frankness but always with sincerity and sympathy; whose deed follows his word; who thinks of the rights and feelings of others, rather than his own; and who appears well in any company, a man with whom honor is sacred and virtue safe.

- John Walter Wayland