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Brothers Customize Gifts For Chapter Needs

Eckrote Acknowledges his “AGR Experience”

Doug Eckrote, Purdue, steps up to the Century Two Campaign saying “AGR taught me the meaning of brotherhood. When a group of men with one common goal get together, there is simply nothing they cannot do or accomplish.”

Doug’s unrestricted gift of \$50,000 is earmarked for Delta Chapter – taking to heart Chairman Lemon’s innovative approach to the campaign with “It’s Your Gift. You’re in Charge.” Brothers can designate for one chapter, one existing local or national program, assist to create new programs or split it up among all of these. Century Two is an honest to goodness grassroots level rally to the future of Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity.

Doug became a member of the Delta Chapter at Purdue University in 1983. He graduated from Purdue in 1986. He is a winner of the AGR Grand President’s Award for 2005. Doug is the senior vice president of purchasing and operations for CDW Corporation and President of CDW Logistics, a Fortune 500 company and leading provider of technology products and services for businesses, government agencies and educational institutions. He lives in Long Grove, Illinois, just outside the Chicago area.

Why did this younger brother commit to The Campaign for AGR? “AGR taught me to live a balanced life and to get involved in activities – to balance school work, activities, fraternity activities and social events. Thanks to my AGR experience, time management and organizing skills have been a real asset to my professional career. I want more and more young men to have this incredible experience while they are in college.”

Doug says the AGR alumni network is unparalleled and he hopes some of his support can be channeled into still stronger alumni programs for his chapter. Leading-edge technology and communication skills’ training for undergraduates is another priority for Eckrote.

His advice to men just joining AGR is, “Get involved, not only in AGR but also in other campus activities and organizations. Employers want to see leadership on your resume. They want to take a look at your ethics, understanding of diversity, integrity – the AGR experience can foster that and get you off to a fast start after graduation.”



Eckrote, center, contributes his thought with his executive committee at CDW at a recent partner summit.

Douthat Sets a Challenge for Louisiana State Chapter

John Douthat is a Florida native and a 1965 University of Florida graduate. He became a member of the Alpha Gamma Chapter at the University in Florida in 1963, though he has called Baton Rouge, Louisiana home since 1976. Moving there he created and built what is now the largest internet site marketing sewing machines (allbrands.com), as well as four brick and mortar locations in Louisiana, including one being rebuilt in New Orleans after the devastation of Katrina.

John’s \$100,000 challenge gift to LSU Alumni “is very similar to rallying after a hurricane. You just help those where you live and work. Their challenges are your challenges. I watched as the men at the LSU chapter took in 26 people (plus some dogs and cats) after the storm. They simply made them part of their family, the same way they have accepted me as part of their family after I moved to their city. AGRs are AGRs. It doesn’t matter if it is where you went for your education or not.”

The Alpha Epsilon Chapter at Louisiana State University named Douthat their chapter adviser six years ago. He has been working with Past Grand National President Zane Akins in developing a long-range strategic plan for LSU. He says: “AGR is facing a challenge of change. We must plan for that...just like the internet changed commerce, technology and innovation are changing the food industry. I am in “textile machinery” now and as close to agriculture as ever via LSU. I hope the chapter can use my gift and the matching funds raised from its alumni to foster even more diversity among its membership through scholarships and house bill assistance for outstanding prospects. AGR must reach out and adapt. We can all step up – the money is in our pockets. We just need to get it out of there and put it to good use for our great Fraternity.”

He knows the 3-year matching challenge comes when many Louisiana State alumni are themselves rebuilding. But John thinks “we all see the same solid future for AGR on the campus of LSU and know that our investment in that very future, even if it hurts right now, will more than pay dividends down the road. We owe it to each other and AGR.”

John Douthat is just one more example of a loyal AGR who is supporting the Century Two Campaign through an earmarked gift -- in his case, a gift that can double in three years.



John Douthat, center, gathers for a picture with the Alpha Epsilon Chapter members at the 2002 National Convention.

For more information on these gift types or other unique approaches, please contact James Ferrell, Director of Development, at the Home Office or by e-mail at James@AlphaGammaRho.org or by telephone at 816-891-9200, extension 21.

While both Eckrote and Douthat gifts benefit their individual chapters, many initial gifts to the Century Two Campaign are being designated for the whole fraternity in their entirety. More of the various gift opportunities available will be featured in future issues of SICKLE & SHEAF.

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THE JOURNEY CENTURY TWO CAMPAIGN FOR AGR

The Four Cornerstones of Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity

LEADERSHIP

AGRs are known for leadership, whether it's in the chapter house, on campus, in the community, or while working in the high-tech agri-sciences industry or serving our country. The goal of the Leadership Cornerstone is to create an endowment fund that will continue this legacy, supporting the life-long leadership skills in individual members and improving leadership capabilities within the Fraternity itself.

Just one initial idea: Implementing chapter based principle-centered programs. Doing so would allow some of the same leadership techniques taught at broader scope programs to be tailored for a chapter specific experience and permeate the entire membership.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

It is certain that Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity's unique position as a social and professional fraternity has been a key to the organization's historic success. While many fraternities claim to offer "membership for life," AGR delivers on the promise. AGR alumni in the food, bio-products and environmental science industries provide an unparalleled sourced of professional networking opportunities that can span a lifetime. This large and increasingly diverse alumni base can offer invaluable contacts - and can open many doors of opportunity - to AGR's aspiring young professionals and seasoned veterans alike.

Just one initial idea: Sponsor an undergraduate to participate in a Study Abroad Program, opening the world of agriculture to the next generation of leaders.



THE CAMPAIGN FOR AGR

SCHOLARSHIP

Sometimes today's college men lose sight of the principal reason for attending college: to graduate with a degree. AGR is proud to say that our individual members continue to perform well in college. In fact, many of our chapters exceed the all-men's average at their school. But being "average" never was the AGR way. Our Fraternity believes that the AGR experience should encourage and support - not distract from - scholarship. With our renewed emphasis on membership development, AGR continues to lead the pack in scholastic development.

Just one initial idea: Want to be the best? Then bring in the best. Endow a scholarship rewarding the outstanding incoming freshman interested in Food, Fiber, and Life Sciences.

LIFE SKILLS

AGR's Purpose calls for us to surround our members with influences encouraging the development of better mental, social, moral and physical qualities. The significance of this calling has never been greater. In today's world, the young members of AGR face a tremendous challenge in their quest to become better men. They must stand against the current of a popular culture where social intemperance, political corruption, and corporate malfeasance seem the norm rather than the exception.

Just one initial idea: We are by our own charge men of character. Pick up where the class room leaves off and sponsor programs offering guidance in regard to professional ethics.

Your Gift. You're in Charge.

For the first time ever, the National Educational Foundation of Alpha Gamma Rho is conducting a Capital Campaign solely dedicated to innovative, chapter-level initiatives to strengthen collegiate chapters and individual members. Your gift can go in its entirety to the chapter(s) you wish to support or to the cornerstone(s) you wish to support: Professional Development, Scholarship, Leadership, Life Skills. Designate it all for one chapter, one cornerstone or select a portion of it for the national leadership to responsibly utilize. It is up to you.

It is your legacy. You are in charge.

Initial Campaign Gifts Set the Stage

One by one, national and local leaders of the Fraternity are stepping up to commit to The Campaign for AGR. Since Chairman Lemon sounded the charge, more than 109 alumni have committed with 40 of those gifts exceeding \$10,000 each. A growing organization of volunteers is gearing up to take the Century Two effort to thousands more AGRs all over the world. Watch for your invitation to join the journey.

Capital Campaign Cabinet

Gene Lemon - Campaign Chair
Bill Boehm
Kirby Barrick
Ted Priebe

Rick Carpenter
Joe Coffey
Bernie Staller
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