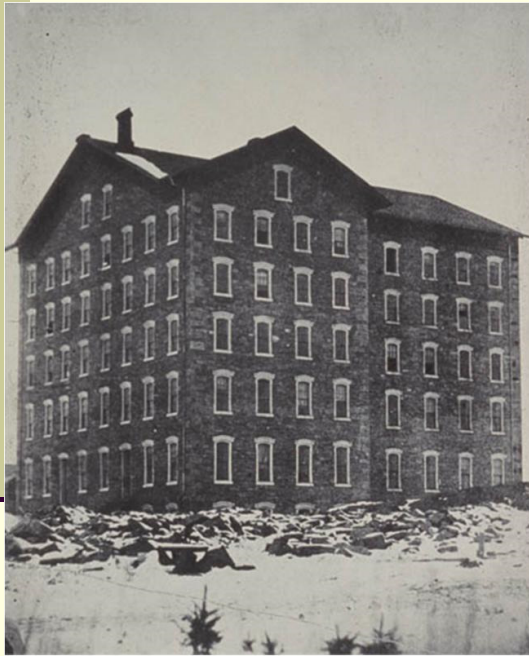


ATP and Penn State

Looking Back Over a Century

19th Century Penn State



Old Main as it
appeared to the
first students in
1859

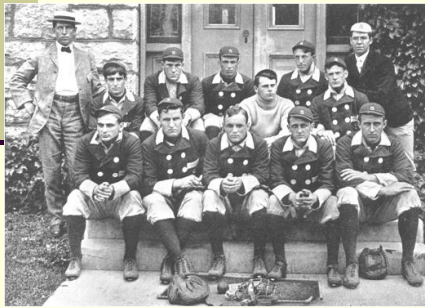
Farmers' High School of Pa. founded by Pa. State Agricultural Society to create a school where students could learn to apply science to agriculture. It was a collegiate institution from the start, offering the first bachelor's degrees in agriculture ever awarded. The "high school" name was more a marketing ploy, since "college" meant the traditional liberal arts to most Americans. When the Land Grant Act was signed by Abraham Lincoln in 1862, the name quickly changed to Agricultural College of Pa.

Student life changes over the years

- Early years: a crude, isolated place
- Manual labor required
- Daily chapel
- Literary societies & hikes



There were only 100 students the first year and it was a tough experience

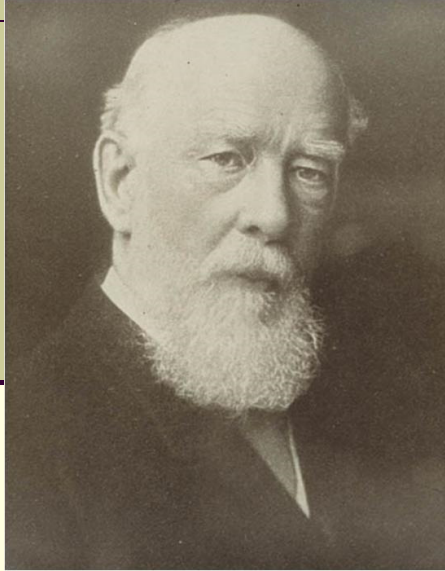


“Dark Ages:” Beginnings of change

- Literary societies revive after Civil War
- Baseball starts 1866
- Women arrive 1871
- Christian Assn., then YMCA 1876
- Pranks & misbehavior

The first president, Evan Pugh, a true scientist with a German university Ph.D., died unexpectedly in 1864, and the college went through 18 years of uncertainty and curricular disarray. These were some of the highlights of that time.

Pres. Atherton Lifted ban on fraternities



- First chapter ($\Delta\Gamma\Delta$, 1872) quashed by President Calder
- Followed by years of sub rosa local organizations
- Then Phi Gamma Delta - 1887
- Beta Theta Pi & Kappa Sigma - 1888

Fraternities were initially banned by the faculty as anti-intellectual and disruptive to good order. President Atherton realized the need for additional housing for students as well as healthy outlets for the social isolation of State College and changed the rules.

Relieving the housing shortage



New national and local fraternity chapters were quickly established.

Fraternity houses before 1900



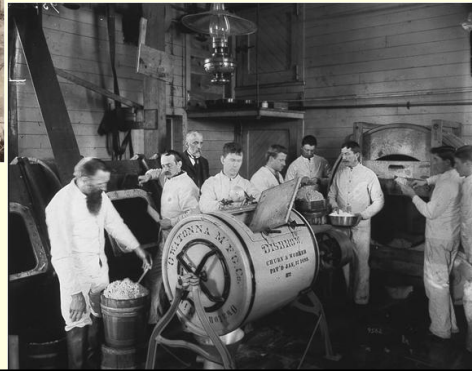
Phi Gamma Delta was the first Phi Delt chapter to have a house, many others quickly rented houses from local residents, all in the general downtown area

Engineering drives Penn State – but Agriculture finds new role



Old Engineering, largest campus building. >75% all students are engineering majors

Dairy Science students test mechanized butter churns. Experimental ag science becomes model to drive a new industry



Throughout the Atherton administration (1882-1906), Penn State grew and engineering led the way in Pennsylvania, the keystone of American industrialization. However, after years of floundering agriculture finally developed a new paradigm – programs were not for training scientific farmers, they were for training agricultural scientists and educators. This new generation of ag grads would work in an evolving agricultural industry and contribute new scientific knowledge that would make American agriculture the most productive in the world.

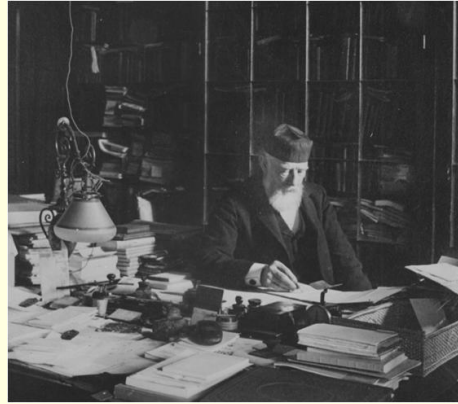
1906 – PSC by the numbers

- About 1,000 alumni
- 15 academic buildings, a dozen residences
- 65 faculty members
- 7 schools offering 24 courses (majors)
- Enrollment about 1,000 students (>75% engineering majors)
- \$88 in fees, room & board for a year

This slide shows the progress made in the 25 years of the Atherton era.

Penn State at 50 – End of an era

- Death of President Atherton, 1906
- Brought Penn State back from near-extinction
- Created all the attributes of a modern university

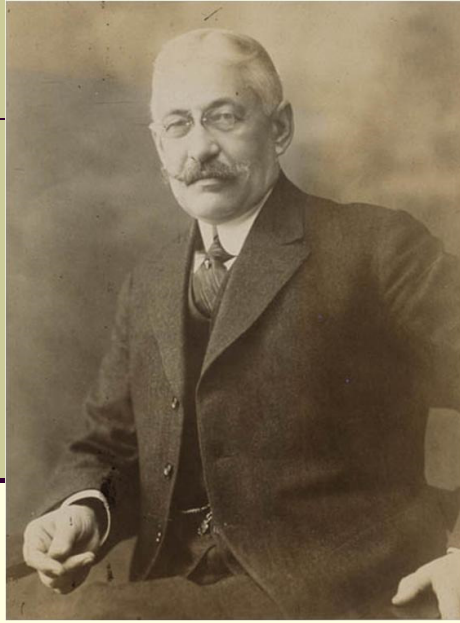


Atherton died in 1906, leaving a major hole at Penn State. The time period before a new leader was found began to show cracks in the unity of faculty, students, administrators and alumni.

From 1906 on: Fraternities increasingly important in student social life



Student life, however, remained an important aspect of a college experience, and increasingly, fraternities played a key role. Not only housing and feeding many of the students, they also encouraged commitment to the extra-curriculum and fraternity men became leaders among the student body.



President Sparks

- A fraternity man himself
- Strong support for student life
- Student government
- The IFC as a problem-solver

Finally, in 1908, a successor was chosen and Sparks proved to be an ideal choice. He was a true scholar and advanced Penn State's academic reputation, but he was particularly strong on students and encouraging them to mature as a part of the college experience. Their leadership experiences through greek life was an important element of that growth in his view

“Equally Inaccessible from all parts of Pennsylvania”



- Why are we here?
- Isolation contributes to spirit
- Train travel to campus
- Highways a stretch

The isolation of Penn State still played a strong role. The location of the campus had been selected to keep students away from the evils of the city, and we were 60 miles from Altoona after all! Most students arrived on campus after an hour-long ride on the Bellefonte Central RR, from the station in Bellefonte where they connected to the Pennsylvania RR and the rest of the world. Cars began showing up here soon after the turn of the century, but highways were mostly dirt and very primitive. Once you got here, you just didn't leave so students made their own fun.

Class Spirit

- Scraps, rushes part of college life since the 18th century
- Primary loyalty to class, gradually changes
 - Cane rush
 - Picture scrap
 - Freshmen banquet
 - Cider scrap
 - Flag scrap
 - Pushball scrap
 - Tug-of-war
 - Tie-up scrap



Traditionally, colleges had focused on the class as a unifying force. The members of your class in these small colleges were your friends for life and it was reinforced through class scraps between freshmen and sophomores



Freshmen Customs

- A kinder, gentler orientation
- Rules:
 - "Button Frosh!"
 - Know songs, cheers
 - Attend meetings
 - Have a match?
 - Keep off the grass
 - No dating!
- Outcomes



Freshmen customs gradually replaced the scraps. As class size grew, scraps became more dangerous – a student was actually killed in one in the early 1900s. Customs gave the sophomores their sense of superiority and the feeling that they were teaching the freshmen the discipline needed to be a Penn State student – after all, customs lasted all year long!

School Spirit

- Blue and White
- Alma Mater
- Nittany Lion
- The “hello spirit”
- “I’m a Penn State Man”



School spirit gradually replaced class as the primary tie of new students. Penn State adopted the hallmarks of school colors, song, mascot, and cheers along with the growth of intercollegiate athletics. The spirit of openness and friendship to every Penn Stater was cemented in the freshman experience and lasted a lifetime

World War I and its aftermath



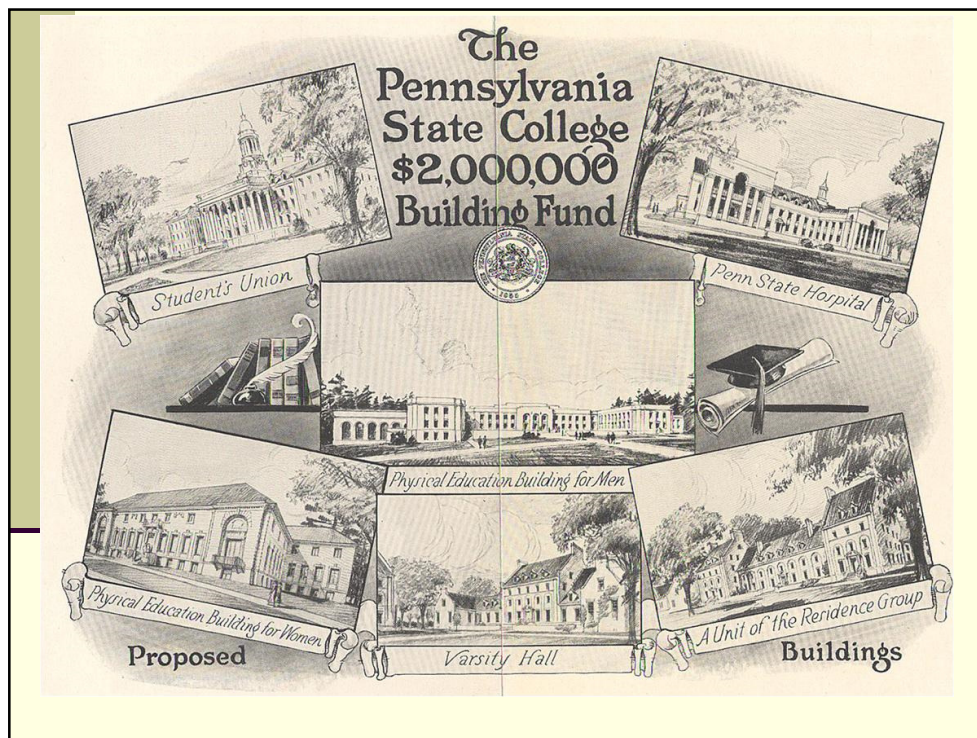
World War I affected the college unlike any crisis since the Civil War. The Army needed vast numbers of educated men to become officers and all male students were enlisted into the SATC (Student Army Training Corps), the predecessor of ROTC. Army officers taught military classes and drilled the students, who would then proceed to specialized training camps, and then board the boats to France. Fortunately, the Armistice, signed on Nov. 11, 1918, ended the war, which the US had entered in April 1917.

John Martin Thomas: “A Builder” with “Exceptional Vision”

- *The State University*
- The capstone of public education
- Biennial appropriation of \$10m
- Enrollment of 10,000
- Graduate and professional schools
- Nationally-recognized faculty



The trustees knew there was an unprecedented latent demand to attend Penn State, but the physical plant was insufficient to meet that demand. Pres. Thomas was hired to create a new Penn State, and he began it with the College's first fundraising campaign.



\$2 million could build a lot of buildings in those days, and although they didn't make the goal, all of these were eventually built.

1900-1920: Fraternity growth spurt

- From 8 to 29 national chapters,
- Plus 10 local chapters
- AZ-1898.
ΑΓΡ-1910,
ΔΘΣ,ΤΦΔ-
1922 as locals



Sigma Alpha Epsilon

The late-Atherton, Sparks era saw increased enrollments, and as a result increased fraternity chapters and houses. Agricultural fraternities had begun with AZ in 1897 at Ohio State, and a year later a Penn State chapter. The other three began as locals but quickly became chapters of national organizations (PSU's TPD actually merging with another local forestry fraternity at Un. Of Wash to form a national TPD).

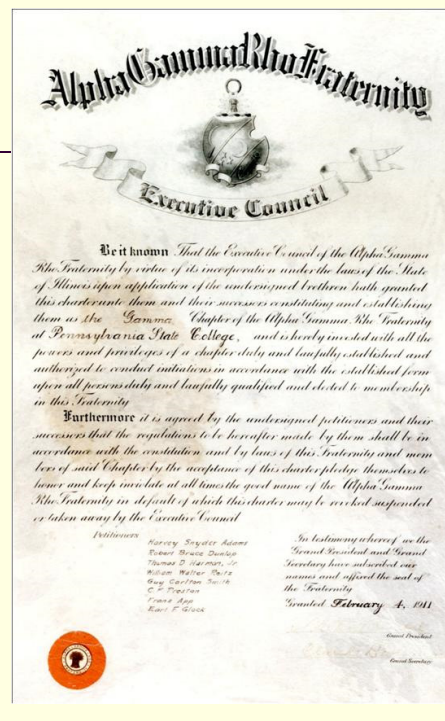
Fraternity house growth: 1900-1920



Houses for all the new chapters were found in three new areas of town – four houses built on campus (including the AZ chapter), a number in the Highlands district further south of the central business district, and many along West College Ave., including a house for the new chapter of AGR

Founding AΓP

- Alpha Alpha Epsilon local fraternity, established 1910
- Becomes third (Gamma) chapter of Alpha Gamma Rho on February 4, 1911



AGR began life as a local, but quickly became the third chapter of Alpha Gamma Rho, which had been founded at the University of Illinois in 1904. The charter was signed by the brothers at a dinner at the Bush House in Bellefonte on February 4, 1911.

First House: corner of



They occupied a house on the corner of West College Ave. and North Barnard Street, in the newest fraternity district.

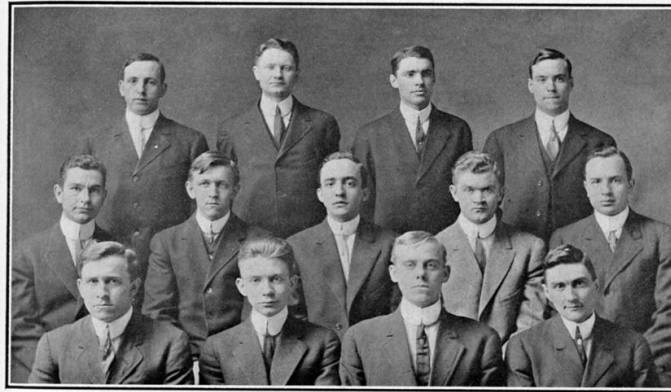
They called them “HPQs”



Alpha Gamma Rho, 1916

Fraternity house life in the teens and '20s was still fairly spartan, but the highlights of the year were “House Parties,” where members would “import” dates from home and these girls would occupy a floor or section of the house, with chaperones. Local coeds generally resented the imports and dubbed them “HPQs” or “House Party Queens,” while they waited for the normal ratio of four to five men to every coed to resume after the weekend.

A.G.R.'s first LaVie page -- 1912



ALPHA GAMMA RHO

(Agricultural Fraternity)
Established February 4, 1911.

Alpha Gamma Rho first appeared in the 1912 LaVie with a good distribution of men from each class. AGRs became campus leaders in the School of Agriculture, in athletics, publications, the arts, and student government

Women vote to approve national sorority chapters, 1924

- 1922 - Clubs allowed on a trial basis – Nita-Nee 1st
- New dean of Women
Charlotte Ray
- 1926 - Alfost becomes Chi Omega



By the '20s, the desire of women for their own societies was finally heard and accepted. Women voted overwhelmingly to move towards sororities, and new leadership in the Dean of Women's office permitted that to happen.

1929: New House



Under construction



The completed house



By 1929, AGR alumni managed to finance a new house for the chapter in the midst of the new fraternity district along Garner St. and Thompson St. (today Fraternity Row).

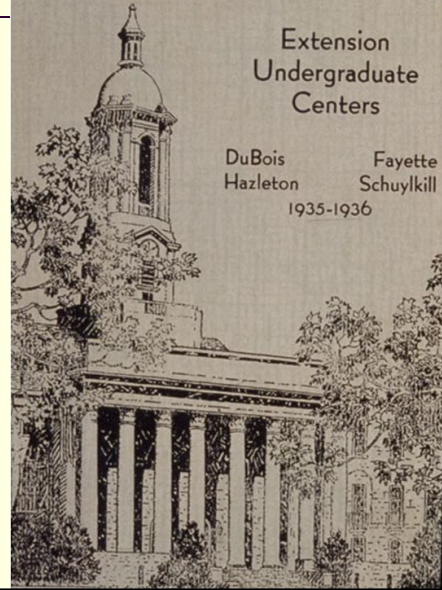
Depression hits

- Enrollments decline, as economy worsens
- Centers opened in smaller cities and towns
- provide a freshman year with lower tuition and living at home

The Pennsylvania State College Bulletin

Extension Undergraduate Centers

DuBois Fayette
Hazleton Schuylkill
1935-1936



However, the timing could not have been worse. With the stock market crash in 1929 and the Great Depression really taking hold in 1931, Penn State had to find new ways to accommodate students in financial trouble. Opening Undergraduate Centers where students could live at home was one response.

Class Center at DuBois Family Mansion



The DuBois mansion was taken over by the College and remained a central feature of the DuBois Campus until it was demolished in 1975. Several Penn State campuses began life as estates which were then donated to Penn State to become educational facilities.

War changes everything again



Once again, war came to the campus and in December of 1941, college life began to experience disruptions and changes that would last well past the signing of peace treaties



The Vets return

- Freshmen 'farmed out'
- Living space at a premium
- Temporary housing, classroom, union buildings on campus

The GI Bill brought a vast group of new students to Penn State and other colleges after the War, the rapid influx of veterans, both male and female, changed campus life for another five years

Alpha Gamma Rho flourishes in the post-war period



1948 membership

The post-war period was a time of tremendous growth for the Greek system as well. Veterans joined fraternities and in some cases, helped create new chapters. AGR, like many others saw tremendous growth in the fifties and sixties.

Milton Eisenhower brings new perspective to Campus

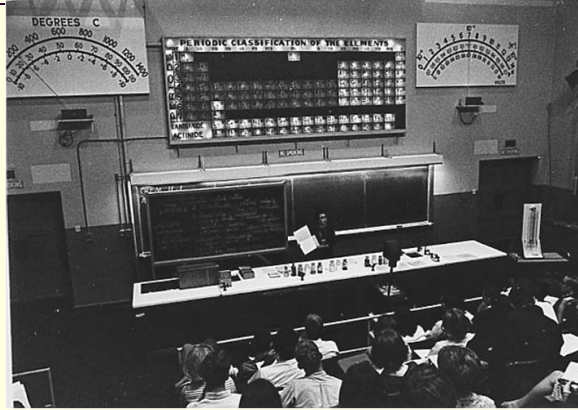


- Changes idea of Penn State from state to national institution
- Research moves into modern era with Water Tunnel, ORL
- Televised instruction, growth of graduate education, expansion of majors
- Athletics begins return to national prominence

Penn State finally selected a new president in 1950, Milton Eisenhower – the brother of the great war hero and new commander of NATO forces, Dwight Eisenhower. It had taken three years after Pres. Hetzel's sudden death in 1947 to select a new leader, but it was an inspired choice. When his brother became President of the United States, it brought new renown to Penn State to have the first family as regular visitors to campus.

Walker Years & the Baby Boomers, 1956-1970

- Dramatic expansion of enrollments (13k-40k), buildings, research
- Commonwealth Campus system emerges
- Hershey Medical Center
- Changing student climate



In 1956, Pres. Eisenhower resigned and he was quickly replaced with Engineering dean and Research VP Eric Walker. Walker presided over tremendous growth at Penn State, the boom in scientific and technical research and the arrival of the baby-boomers at college. In his final years, he also experienced the rise of student activism and protests

Fraternities thrived in the '50s & '60s



A.G.R. 1959

While fraternities thrived through most of the Eisenhower and Walker years, in the late 1960s began to reflect the same stresses the rest of the student body was beginning to experience. AGR going “wet” was perhaps one more example of the changing attitudes of students at this time.



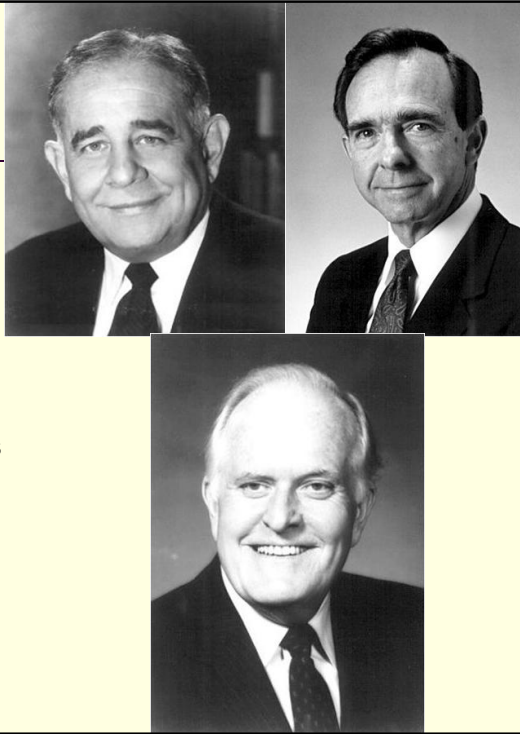
Housing issues

- Major renovation in 1962 updated facilities including study cubicles
- August 1966 fire guts 3d floor and attic, water and smoke damage 1st and 2d floors.
- Members move back in 1968

While house renovations in 1962 had modernized the physical plant, the destructive fire in August 1966 left the chapter in disarray. After renting space for almost two years, the members were able to move back into the house in 1968.

1970-1995

- The Oswald-Jordan-Thomas era
- Enrollments grow 15k more and stabilize at 82k
- State appropriations decline as part of budget
- Private fundraising assumes new importance
- Greek life declines and recovers, but the equation changes



The 25 years represented by these three presidents was a time of tremendous growth without being matched by the facilities needed to support it. With declining state support, fundraising in the Jordan years became a key element of campus life. The 70s were tough on fraternities, but they revived in the '80s and '90s, but with new considerations. The university had changed the relationship with chapters. No longer were students protected by *in loco parentis*; problems with police would leave the chapters vulnerable to regular law enforcement. This changed alcohol policies, insurance rates, and the style of life in fraternities

Fraternities, like student body, become more diverse



ca. 1981

And, of course, styles changed as well. Fraternities were no longer the stars of conservative college life, chapter members would show all the diversity of the general student body in both academics and the extra-curriculum, although houses like AGR maintained their natural connection to the field of agriculture and the academic discipline that implied.

Spanier Era, 1995 to the present

- Improved state relationships yield needed new buildings
- World Campus, IST School, Schreyer Honors College
- Law School merger
- Changes to Commonwealth Campus Systems
- Technologically-empowered students



Over the last sixteen years, Penn State has seen many changes – over a billion dollars worth of new buildings at campuses across the Commonwealth, a much more diverse student body, new schools and majors, and the impact of information technology, as well as gradually increasing enrollments.

Gamma Chapter continues to thrive



- House renovation in 2010 for \$2.5 million provides one of the best facilities at Penn State
- Centennial celebration honors 100 years of progress

For AGR, with the new house renovations, strong alumni, and dynamic new students and challenging new fields in agriculture and foods -- the future looks as bright as it has ever been.