



ALPHA GAMMA RHO

CRESCENT

ALPHA ZETA CHAPTER • KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

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FALL 2010

Alumni Spotlight: Larry D. Woodson #549

The following is a letter I received from Brother Larry Woodson, outlining some of his accomplishments and successes throughout the years. After reading all of his outstanding achievements and reviewing the various documents enclosed with this letter, I was astounded to learn about what he has done. This is truly a great example of what Alpha Gamma Rho can do for a member's development and future career. I found it best to simply use his letter in this Crescent. This is a letter written to us by Larry himself.

—Cole Pearson, Kyle Meenen

Dear AGR's:

I am providing you a few of the documents that I have collected since my departure from Kansas State University and Alpha Zeta. I am also including an outline of my activities. I would say that Alpha Gamma Rho played a pivotal role in giving direction to my career.

Prior to my retirement as a County Commissioner in Osage County, I served 29 years for the Kansas Department of Agriculture until my retirement in 2005. I had worked as the Assistant Director and Director of the Kansas State Meat Inspection Program; Director of the Inspections Program and was a Dairy Regulatory Specialist. I served from 1964-1975 in the Kingdom of Laos, first as a volunteer with International Voluntary Services (I.V.S.); Associate Chief of Party for the I.V.S.; Assistant Chief of Party for I.V.S.; and Chief Party for the I.V.S. Education Team assigned to the Sisavang Vong University in Vientiane, Laos. From the University, I went to work for the United States of International Development

(USAID) as a refugee education specialist. Following three years of refugee work, I accepted a position as a refugee livestock advisor with the State Department and was assigned to work with the Hmong refugees in Long Chieng, Laos until my evacuation in 1975.

I was born in Kingman, Kansas to Lawrence and Vera Layman Woodson. My parents were from farm families and stayed on the family farm until health prevented them from staying in farming. I attended high school in Kingman and was active in 4-H and FFA. I received a Who's Who award in 4-H and was a State Farmer in FFA in Kansas. I graduated from Kansas State University with a B.S. Degree in Agricultural Education. I attended a six-week course in Teaching Vocational Education Summer Course in Zollikofin, Switzerland and participated in a two-week course in Teaching English as a Second Language in Singapore.

I was a member and held various offices in the Vientiane Toastmasters Club, the Topeka Ski Club, Topeka Breakfast Optimist Club, Overbrook Rotary, Kansas Sanitarians Association and the Dairy Technical Society of Kansas. I was a member of Topeka Lodge #17 and the Arab Temple of Topeka. I served as vice-chairman and chairman of the Public Health and Environment Safety Committee of the United States Animal Health Association. I published the Khao Lao, an annual newsletter covering news of former Americans who served in the Kingdom of Laos. I received two letters of commendation from the USAID Program Director in Laos and one letter of commendation from the Executive Director

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of I.V.S. in Washington. While in Laos, I served on the Lao-American Association Board of Directors. I was elected to the Elk Township Board and was a Board Member of the Rural Water District #5 in Osage County. I was elected to serve as an Osage County Commissioner in District II. I also served on the Overbrook Pride Committee Board and on the Overbrook Library Foundation. I participated on the Osage City Veterans Memorial Committee, the Overbrook Tennis Park and with the Park Soccer Field Project.

I married Dee Ann Davenport Smith September 1, 1986 in Reno, Nevada. I have two stepchildren, Scott Alan Smith and Rod Mathew Smith. We met in Topeka at the First Baptist Church where I served as the treasurer of the Adult Singles Sunday School Class. Scott married Kat Lewis and they have two daughters, Tatum and Macy. Scott is the plant manager for

LKQ in Topeka and Kat is a surgical technician at Stormont Vail Hospital. Rod is a journey electrician living in Coffee County.

Following my term as a county commissioner I joined the Social Security and Medicare fraternity and became a winter snowbird in Golden Canyon, AZ. Summers find me in Overbrook mowing the lawn and attending the Granddaughter's softball games. My wife and I enjoy traveling around the world and staying active with community activities.

I continue to maintain the family farm and administer my parents' trust in helping my brother.

*Fraternally,
 Larry D. Woodson #549
 KSU -1964*