University of Central Missouri – Spending time at UCM’s Greenhouse complex, one can see the hard work, attention, and dedication that goes into taking care of the state-of-the-art facilities. Much of the thanks goes to the men of Sigma Pi whom have generously donated their time and care to the greenhouses, “I am very appreciative of the Sigma Pi Fraternity working at the Agriculture Department Greenhouse complex” according to Mark Goodwin, assistant professor of Department of Agriculture.

“We wanted to assist the Agriculture Department by helping to restore the University greenhouses” said Mark Nivert. UCM’s Greenhouse complex is used in a number of horticulture courses which allows students the opportunity to gain skills in the care, grooming, propagation, and trial marketing of plants “By helping to restore the greenhouses, agriculture students at UCM have a healthier and improved place to practice horticulture” according to Nivert.

The men came to the Greenhouse twice last fall and twice this spring. During these times, they completed the repositioning of the weed cloth in the apple orchard, removed weeds both around the outside of the greenhouse and inside the greenhouse, and removed weeds around the perimeter fence. They also pruned apple trees and removed weeds from the apple orchard. “Without their help these tasks would have never been completed by the end of the spring semester” said Goodwin “They worked very hard to complete these tasks. I really appreciate their hard work.”

The fraternity started this project because they wanted to give back to UCM. “We chose the Greenhouse complex because we enjoy working outside and with our hands. Also, several of our members are agriculture majors” according to Brandon Franck, Sigma Pi president. This is the second year the men have worked at the Greenhouse complex as a part of Sigma Pi’s Altruistic Campus Experience (ACE) project.

The ACE project was developed so men of the Sigma Pi fraternity can show their appreciation to their respective institutions by doing various service projects that will directly benefit their campus, “UCM has been such a great institution to us and we wanted to show our appreciation by giving back to it” said Franck.