



# AGR

**Eta Chapter Newsletter  
Iowa State University**

## The Cres Cent



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Fall 2014

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# Brothers,

I write to you as the proud Noble Ruler of the Eta Chapter at Iowa State University. The men at ISU are working their way through yet another great semester after very successful summers—many of our Brothers have completed internships with reputable ag companies. Including DuPont Pioneer, Summit Farms, Syngenta, Iowa Select Farms, and Farm Credit Services of America.

Eta Chapter was also very successful at the National Convention this past August. We had eight Brothers attend the event in Indianapolis, Indiana and were honored to have received Highest Honors for Alumni Relations, Membership Development, and House Mother Management Program. We also received High Honors in Academic Excellence and Chapter Website and Honorable Mention for House Mother Cultural and Social Development. Brothers and Chapter Advisors Paul Heineman and Tim Heiller were recognized for their commitment and service to Eta Chapter over the years. In addition, are humbled and honored to have our very own Eta chapter Brother and alumni David Van Wert inducted into the National AGR Hall of Fame.

I'd like to extend a warm welcome into the halls of 201 Gray our newest housemother, Diane Pinneke. She is excited and thrilled to be a part of our fraternity and has had nothing but good things to say about her experience in the few short since her time as house mom began. Diane is looking forward to developing her own professional development program and continuing to help men be their best selves through AGR.

I am thrilled to announce that we have signed 28 new outstanding young men to our fraternity this fall. The class collectively came in already possessing high leadership and scholarship potential, and they have not disappointed. Jeremy Maass, our recruitment chair, did an excellent job of narrowing down the final candidates from a pool of around 125 eager young men. We look forward spending our college years here at the house with them, and I am confident they will continue to

keep the legacy of Eta Chapter strong.

On the academic front, we received an all-house average GPA of 3.27, which placed us 3<sup>rd</sup> among fraternities. We have already completed our Dean's Team Meals at Hickory Park and had our annual Prime Rib Scholarship Meal for those reaching the house goal. Our house goal this upcoming semester is set for a 3.36 and we look forward to the challenge of reaching it!

While the football season has been a roller-coaster ride thus far, the Brothers were well prepared for Homecoming this year. We were excited to be paired with the women of Alpha Delta Pi and the men of Alpha Tau Omega. The Yell-Like-Hell skit went well and the Lawn Display is made a quick progression, with groundbreaking occurring early on September 6th. The homecoming game was followed by a reception at AGR.

We don't have any "Celebrations" for this edition of *The Crescent*. That being said, if you have something you'd like us to feature, please get in touch with one of our editors. We love hearing from our alumni!

Don't hesitate to contact me with any comments or questions you may have about the chapter in the upcoming year. As I finish out my term as Noble Ruler, I want to express how truly grateful and honored I am to serve in this role and to help carry on the traditions of Eta Chapter. Have a safe and bountiful harvest this fall, and we hope to see you around

Fraternally,

**Chancellor Wiese**  
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# Brother David Van Wert Receives AGR's Highest Honor



David Van Wert has a very influential background in agriculture and business. Van Wert has been instrumental in adding value to the poultry and pork industries across the country over the course of his career. Since graduating from Iowa State in 1960, he has worked his way up the ranks of Swift and Company, IBP and ConAgra. Before retiring, he spent eight years as president and CEO of Van Wert Associates Consulting. Van Wert still keeps busy during retirement by volunteering for a number of organizations including his local Rotary Club, Iowa State University and Alpha Gamma Rho.

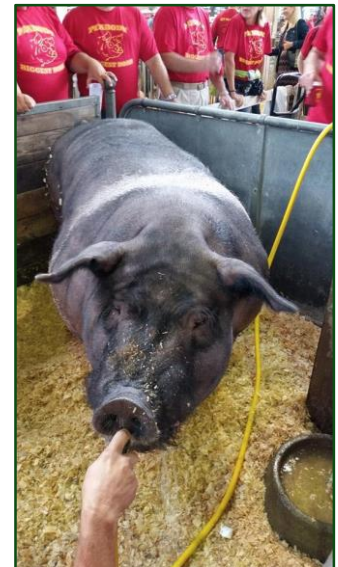
Van Wert's contributions to Alpha Gamma Rho have been just as impactful as his career moves in agriculture, and this is clear through his years of participation at both the national and chapter level for AGR. He has provided advice and guidance to Eta Chapter by serving as a member on the Board of Directors for six years and as president of the board for two of those years. David has also provided significant financial support for Eta. He founded the Eta Chapter Fund within the Educational Foundation of Alpha Gamma Rho and helped raise funds for the addition to Eta house in 2009. Among other accomplishments, Van Wert served on the National Convention Steering Committee and was named an AGR Brother of the Century in 2004, but none is more honorable than his induction into the National AGR Hall of Fame.



## “Peabody” Wins Iowa State Fair Big Boar Contest

This year's Iowa State Fair Big Boar Contest had a greater purpose than just entering a huge hog. In 2013, “Fred Hoiboar” was raised by a group of Eta brothers in honor of Brother Brad Peyton, who then passed away from pancreatic cancer in September 2013, and to raise money for the charity organization he founded, the Shining City Foundation.

At the 2013 Iowa State Fair, the gang entered Fred Hoiboar into the Big Boar Contest, but came up short with a third place finish. They enjoyed the experience, but weren't satisfied with third place. So, they decided to compete again! Tragically, Brad passed away shortly after the contest. The Brothers decided to win the next year's contest for their fallen brother. In addition to taking a boar back to State, they sold t-shirts and collected donations for the Shining City Foundation. The shirts donned the 2014 boar's name, “Peabody,” which was Brad's nickname during his time at ISU and in the Eta chapter.



Over \$3,000 was raised for Brad's charity, and Peabody won the Big Boar Contest, tipping the scale at a whopping 1,273 pounds! We are so grateful towards Brad's friends and family for their support of this heartwarming effort to help benefit those in need and to honor a great man and Brother.

# Meet New House Mother “Mom Diane”



Hello!

My name is Diane Pinneke, and I am Eta chapter's new house mother. I grew up on a farm by Arcadia/Halbur Iowa in Carroll county. My grandparents on both sides of the family were farmers. I have 8 siblings, and I grew up surrounded by cousins whose parents also farmed. I attended St. Augustine school in Halbur and Kuemper High School in Carroll. I graduated from UNI with a degree in Social Work and then I received my MSW from Iowa. I am currently a LISW (Licensed Independent Social Worker). Most of my professional life, I have worked as a Child, Adolescent. And Family Therapist. It was during this time that I realized how much I enjoyed working with young people.

I have one daughter who currently lives with her husband in Marshalltown. In 2013, I became a grandmother (“Oma”) for the first time. My favorite thing to do is babysit my granddaughter!

For many years I've been saying that, when I retired, I wanted to be a fraternity mom at ISU. My nephew, Lucas Wendl, was a member of AGR, and through him I learned about the house here at ISU. I was delighted when I received the call from Chance Wiese for an interview, and I have been very happy with my decision. I have truly enjoyed meeting the young men and learning about them, as well as the responsibilities of my position. I look forward to meeting with AGR members' parents and the chapter's alumni. AGR is a very special fraternity and I am proud to be a part of it.

Sincerely, Mom Diane

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On Friday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, nearly two dozen AGRs took part in our annual summer scholarship golf tournament. Heavy June rains forced us to re-schedule to mid-July, but despite the weather, we drug our clubs out to the field to play! It was worth the wait, however, as the beautiful Ridge Stone Golf Club course in Sheffield, Iowa was a fantastic location. Due to the generosity of our golfers and our new venue, over \$1,000 was raised—once again!—in support of scholarships for ISU AGRs!

The top-performing team was a great group of esteemed low number Brothers, who together shot a 5 under par 67. Team members included Del Bowden, Charlie Brown, Bill Dohrman, Bill Latham and JD Thorson. Two teams tied for second place at 4 under par, with Bill Elson, Steve Ralphs, Dan Stockdale, and Mark Stutsman on one team and Greg Hora, Joe Hora, Mike Nissly, and Brad Staley on the other.

Additional award winners were Brad Staley for the longest drive, Dan Stockdale for closest to the pin, and Steve Ralphs for the longest putt. Congratulations, Brothers!

Other Brothers participating included Kevin Allman, Tyler Bixby, John Chism, Dean Engel, Tim Heiller, John Latham, Austin Pappan, Donovan Richardson, Jacob Spellman, and Craig Sperflage. Thanks to everyone who came out to golf with us!

Please mark your calendars now for the 2015 AGR Scholarship Golf event on Friday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015 to be held once again at the Ridge Stone Golf Club in Sheffield, Iowa. As always, it will be a fun event with lots of fellowship and opportunity to serve the chapter by assisting with the Eta Chapter AGR scholarship!

Fraternally, **John Chism “1467”**



# 63<sup>rd</sup> AGR National Convention Report



Greetings Brothers,

My name is Shayne Wiese, and I am a sophomore Animal Science major. This past August, I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to travel to the 63<sup>rd</sup> Alpha Gamma Rho National Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. Our chapter was well represented by many undergrads, and we took home multiple honors over the course of the weekend.

We had a strong showing of brothers from across the nation arrive in Indy. Chapters from all across the U.S. attended the convention, and many long lasting friendships were made as we congregated together as a fraternity. Eta chapter was able to have six seniors, one junior, one recent graduate, one chapter advisor, and myself attend. Brothers Chancellor Wiese, Michael Burt, Michael Theis, Thomas Yoder, Jordan Cowan, and Mark Holloway represented the senior class. Brother Clayton Hora represented the juniors, and I was the sophomore rep. Brother Dakota Lueken, who graduated this past spring, took time away from his job at DuPont Pioneer to attend. Brother Tim Heiller, one of our chapter advisors, also accompanied us.



The weekend was filled with exciting activities, workshops, speakers, and communal meals. On August 4<sup>th</sup>, the convention began with a welcoming address, followed by a State of the Fraternity update from Grand President and Eta alum Arlen Wonderlich. After lunch, we had a presentation sponsored by Zoetis Animal Health. The Brothers then proceeded to conduct an initiation service for our new honorary Brother Dwight Armstrong of the National FFA Organization.

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**Convention Report**

**National**

The following day we were served breakfast sponsored by Monsanto and listed to keynote speaker and Eta chapter alum Rodd Whitney speak. After a few meetings following breakfast, we attended a



variety of workshops over trends in agriculture. Many of us attend one that was over Animal Agriculture, where Eta alum Brother Mike Brown and other animal agriculturalists spoke on the challenges in the industry. Upon the conclusion of the workshops, we listened to a presentation by General Martin Umbarger of the Indiana Army National Guard sponsored by Winfield. This occurred during the luncheon award ceremony. These events wrapped up the second day of convention, and we were afterwards given the opportunity to tour either the Dow AgroSciences Research and Development Center or the Indianapolis

Motor Speedway Museum. Once the tours ended, we were able to cheer on the Indianapolis Indians at a baseball game down the block from our hotel.

The final day of National Convention was a humbling time to reflect on just how great our AGR chapter at Iowa State really is. We began with a breakfast sponsored by DuPont Pioneer, and Eta alum Brother John Chism was the keynote speaker. The rest of the day was filled with workshops and award ceremonies. Eta chapter wrapped up Convention with many honors that all Brothers should be proud of. Chapter advisor Brother Paul Heineman received an award for 30 years of service as a chapter advisor, and Brother Tim Heiller received a an award for 25 years of service. Our recently retired House Mother Jan Brown received a multitude of awards, including highest honor for Best Management Program and honorable mention for Promotion of Cultural and Social Practices. Eta chapter won a handful of other awards, including High Honor in Website Design, Academic Excellence, and Highest Honor in Membership Development and Alumni Relations. The highlight of National Convention was receiving runner-up for the Maynard H. Coe Chapter Efficiency Award behind Kansas State's Alpha Zeta chapter.



Our experiences at the 63<sup>rd</sup> National Convention were exciting and memorable. We took great pride in accepting so many awards for Eta Chapter that recognized the hard work the undergrads, alumni, advisors, and recently retired housemother. We are motivated to continue our tradition of excellence and will continue to strive to be just as successful (or even more so!) at the 64<sup>th</sup> National Convention in 2016.

**Shayne Wiese “2158”**  
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## Alpha Gamma Rho

*Eta Chapter, Iowa State University*

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## Lost Brothers

If you know the contact information for any of these Brothers, please contact one of the editors.

Wilbur Pentzer	152	Charles Neale	460	Dalls Western	703	Keven Luedtke	1286	Lee Brinning	1750
Martin Weiss	251	Byron Thomas	489	Craig Hollingsworth	947	James Meyer	1429	Mathew Thome	1863
Prentice Burdick	319	Marcus Bauer	496	Stephen Prizer	979	Jeffrey Vondrak	1458	Michael Doran	1941
Robert Putman	327	Marvin Boss	513	Jasper Crowe	1073	Brian Corpman	1470	Mark Pierce	1965
Ferdinand Plumer	335	Charles Cutter	529	Michael Feeney	1152	Todd Potts	1650	Jeremy Wurzer	2007
John Simmons	354	Leslie Mathews	593	James Stark	1182	Jeffrey Waldner	1661	Brett Pfantz	2029
Donald Her	382	Jakob Schmitt	613	James Holub	1260	Kirk Bedwell	1724		

### Fall Semester Events

*Mark your calendars!*

Dad's Weekend – Nov 1

ISU Bacon Expo – Nov 8

Thanksgiving Break – Nov 24-28

Finals Week – Dec 15-19

Thank you to Lauren Riensche for updating the look of *The Crescent!* Lauren is the daughter of Eta Brother Ben Riensche "1302," niece of late Eta Brother Adam Riensche "1409," and girlfriend of Eta Brother Luke Gosse "2141." She is an **AOP**, like her ISU grad mother Lisa Riensche, and attends the University of Chicago for agricultural marketing.

## Meet the Editors



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