



ΑΓΡ

Eta Chapter Newsletter
Iowa State University

THE CRESCENT



— SPRING 2015 —

Fall 2014 Grade Report

The most anticipated part of every semester would have to be the grades you receive! We all have those classes that may bite a little bit, but overall we hope for GPA that will get us on the Deans Team. The Deans Team, a great honor through the University, but even more of an honor to achieve through the house. With a quick look back, we had another outstanding first Semester here at 201 Gray. Finishing up the fall semester of 2014 with a house average 3.2 grade point average. Comparing to last fall, the house had a .5 increase in grade point average. With a move in the positive direction we have enjoyed having fun and exciting events for good academic performances. With trips to the local Hickory Park Restaurant or having the Deans team enjoy a nice prime rib, it is an honor and a privilege to achieve that level of Deans team. When looking at the IFC and the semester reports we have had another outstanding performance to show for our house. We rank fourth of all fraternities and have successfully set the bar above the average Greek and non-Greek college student. Furthermore, our house GPA is a direct correlation to the work ethic and benefits of having a fraternity of men. With that, if we take a closer look at our GPA we see that the previous active members achieved an average of 3.31, and the new member GPA achieving an average of 2.94. This shows good work ethic and leadership from upperclassmen and I have personally been inspired to achieve a higher GPA to help maintain or improve the house GPA. With a good improvement from the last fall, we look forward to having an evening higher average for the Spring of 2015.

Fraternally,

Clayton Robison
"2136"

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Pictured above are the brothers that achieved the house goal GPA of 3.36 and attended the scholarship meal of Prime Rib and Potatoes.

Alumni Spotlight



Brother Mike Nissly "1238" is being recognized as this edition's Alumni Spotlight. He graduated in 1982 with a degree in Ag Business and a minor in Farm Management. In 1982 there wasn't a big demand for individuals in Ag, so he started working with his father and brother. His brother and he now own Nissly and Nissly. Their dad, John Nissly "500" is currently working for them, so it has come full circle. Nissly and Nissly is like the old generation farmer, they have a very diversified business with a number of revenue streams from farm management, income tax preparations, crop insurance, accounting, payroll, to land sales. Each of these areas have been profitable. He received his Accredited Farm Manager (AFM) designation in 1987 from the American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers (ASFMRA). In his own words "This has been a great organization as the relationships with other like-minded professionals has been great". He has served the Iowa Chapter of ASFMRA as a board member on two occasions and one term president. During his tenure in the

officer chairs he helped form the Educational Foundation of the Iowa Chapter of the ASFMRA.

Mike married his wife April in 1982, a member of Kappa Delta at Iowa State and will celebrate his 31st anniversary this June. They have two children together, Chavis and Jaden. They will both be getting married this year, so they are going to be very busy with the wedding planning. When his son graduated from high school in 2005 he started officiating high school football. Mike says that it has been a great experience getting onto the field on Friday nights and working with the same crew and helping the players. Mike also enjoys water skiing and snow skiing, as well as biking and everything that involves the Iowa State Cyclones.

In his community Mike has been a member of the Lions International Club for 31 years. Lions Club is the largest community service club in the world and he has found it very rewarding. Not only has he been a member but has been very involved with service acts and within the organization itself being his local treasurer since 1992 and state association District Governor in 2011-12. He is currently serving a two-year term as a trustee for the Iowa Lions Foundation. He is also actively involved in the United Methodist Church and has served as the treasurer for 26 years at his local church and is also a certified Lay Speaker.

Mike believes that AGR has prepared him well for leadership and he has taken the skills learned while in college and utilized them in his hometown. As a member of AGR, his legacy continues as he became the treasurer of the Alumni Corporation in 2008, just as major fundraising and remodeling was being planned. Mike enjoys serving as treasurer and likes staying involved in the house and gives credit to all active brothers for continuing the traditions of Alpha Gamma Rho and making better men. He encourages brothers to utilize their leadership talents wherever their careers take them.



Legacy Fund Update

Where at Alpha Gamma Rho the mission is to “make better men”, a scholarship program has been set up to help with just that. Through several partnerships with the Iowa State Foundation and the College of Agriculture and Life Science, Eta Chapter launched the AGR Legacy fund last fall. For those not familiar, the legacy fund is a program that rewards those who demonstrate leadership qualities, growth as a person, academic achievement, and betterment of Alpha Gamma Rho with financial grants. These grants are awarded twice a year during Homecoming and Founder’s Day. Eta alumni and College Administration award the scholarships and help manage the program. To determine financial reward, each semester current members fill out a points system that adds up point amounts for GPA, improvement in cumulative GPA, volunteerism, leadership positions held, and involvement in Alpha Gamma Rho.

As we as a chapter and as an organization look to improve ourselves, as well as those around us and leave our mark, the goal of the legacy fund is to do just that. By helping our current brothers financially, we are helping those members pursue their goals and careers without the added burden of school debt. Also, by awarding these scholarships based on academic merit, involvement within the college of agriculture, as well as ETA chapter; we are fostering an environment of learning and achievement both academically and within the chapter.

As alumni you can help support this program by donating. On the ETA Chapter’s website, isuagr.org, you can find an AGR Legacy tab which will direct you to the page to find out more information and how to donate. Since there are several ways of donating I will provide a quick overview. When donating, you can make a one time contribution, pledge a specific amount monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, or annually for up to 5 years. You can also make a gift via electronic fund transfer, stock, or in your will. There are also opportunities to receive recognition as a donor through a named scholarship. Eta Chapter has the opportunity to provide named scholarship recognition to those who donate at the \$50,000 level or above. Academic achievement has always been imperative at Alpha Gamma Rho, and we would appreciate your support to ensure it stays that way.



Reflections and Memories of "Mom" Hazel Streit

January 31, 1913-January 26, 2015



January 26, 2015 marked the passing of former Housemother "Mom" Hazel Streit. Mom served as Housemother of Eta Chapter of Alpha Gamma Rho from August, 1971 to May, 1989. In that time, nearly 600 young men of Eta Chapter called her "Mom", their surrogate Mother for their years at Iowa State University.

Hazel was born in Palo Alto County, Iowa, the 6th of 13 children of George and Hannah Forbes. Hazel postponed some of her education to help raise the younger siblings, but graduated from Pocahontas High School in 1933. That same year she married Loell Streit. After marriage, she worked in Des Moines at an ordnance plant making bullets for the World War II conflict. Hazel and Loell were blessed with two children, Kay and Gary. When Loell joined the Navy in 1943, Hazel and her children moved back to Pocahontas. After the war, they owned and operated the Streit Funeral Home in Rolfe, Iowa. When Loell passed away in 1964, it brought Mom to her second career, as a Housemother.

Her first venture in House-mothering was for a sorority at Nebraska Wesleyan College in Lincoln, Nebraska. Eventually, she ended up in Ames, a Housemother for Beta Theta Pi fraternity. She later would say that she felt boys were "easier" than the sorority girls to guide (She got no argument from us). In the spring of 1971, the Betas joined the trend in no longer employing Housemothers. Their decision was great timing for Eta Chapter, as Mom Larsen was ready to retire. Hazel was interviewed by the active chapter, offered the job, and was to begin in the fall of 1971.

The decision of Eta chapter to hire her began what was to be an 18 year stint as housemother here. At the time of her hiring, the capacity of the fraternity was 84 men, one cook, and the housemother. One of Mom's priorities was etiquette. She simply stated that proper etiquette was required because it showed respect for those people around you. Etiquette lessons included meal time manners for regular and formal meals, dating etiquette, and social etiquette in personal and business settings. Etiquette classes were required for pledges until they mastered the manners she felt necessary.

Mom worked with the House Business Manager to plan meals and see that supplies were available for meal times and the social events she often hosted. She was a very gracious hostess for distinguished dinner guests, such as ISU President W. Robert Parks and his wife, Agriculture Dean Lee Kolmer, Associate Dean Louis Thompson, as well as various professors and alumni. She also hosted parties for graduating seniors and their families. She loved attending ISU athletic events escorted by a brother or pledge. She was equally comfortable in an evening gown at the annual "Pink Rose" formal or in her bib overalls at the spring "Farmers Ball".

Early in her career as housemother, Eta Chapter experienced



ALPHA GAMMA RHO
Rags to Riches
October 9, 1981

multiple episodes of cooks leaving their position for varied reasons. She was called upon several times to cook for the 84 men until a replacement cook could be found. She did so with that usual smile and “can do” sprit. Mom was a woman of faith who wanted to be escorted to any religious service on Sunday mornings. The denomination was not important. What was important was to attend with some of the brothers.

One of Mom Streit’s many qualities was her ability to share in the emotions of the time. Whether a brother was homesick, suffering anxiety or depression, was pressured by financial concerns, euphoria of graduation or landing a job, dating concerns, whatever the emotion, Mom had an ability to identify that emotion and be able to assist if help was needed or rejoice in the success. Many brothers have spoken of her calmness, her easy smile, and her encouraging way. If one needed help with a button on a shirt, a shoulder to cry on, a hug when a hug was needed, she was a steady and constant source of assistance.

Hazel spent her summers at the YMCA camp in the Rockies in Estes Park, Colorado. She retired in the spring of 1989. At the 75th Anniversary of the founding of Eta Chapter in April, 1989, she was recognized for her 18 years of service, and presented a painting of her that would hang in the Chapter House for many years. In subsequent years, she loved coming to Homecoming events in the fall to see brothers come back with their wives and young families. She often remarked how proud she was to see brothers in their next roles in life as husbands, fathers, and successful businessmen or professionals. She had a big hand in their success.

Mom spent her retirement years living with her granddaughter, Sandy Peterson, and her husband, Dan, in North Ames, serving as a “nanny” to her grandchildren and great grandchildren. One of her last events with the brothers of Eta Chapter came on September 3, 2009, at what was called the “Glory Days” reunion. She spent several hours at the Fraternity reacquainting with brothers and wives who came back for a great time before an ISU football game. Mom was 96 ½ years old at the time and still did quite well remembering names and faces. She truly was a special woman, and Eta Chapter of Alpha Gamma Rho was very blessed to

have her as our “Mom” for those 18 years and the nearly 26 years she spent in retirement in Ames.



“Mom” Hazel Streit passed from this Earth 5 days short of her 102nd birthday. A memorial service was held Monday, February 2, at Christ Community Church in Ames. A nice representation of men from Eta Chapter attended either the memorial service or the visitation service on Sunday. At her memorial service, the Fraternity was represented by former Noble Ruler John Fischer, who spoke of the memories and positive influence on so many AGR men in those 18 years. The brothers serenaded her one last time with “AGR Dream

Girl” song of our fraternity. She will be buried at a later date in Rolfe, Iowa. May she rest in peace.



“The Mission: Continue To Make Better Men”

By C. R. Baum “980”

Brothers, please forgive me if your memory of 201 Gray is different but this is my account. It was winter quarter of 1971. We had just gone through a tough house election with long debates. The house was not full. The budget was tight. Our cook had stolen checks and was removed. Our housemother was moving to the AGR house in Arizona. Many fraternities were eliminating housemother jobs and wanted more fun in their college lives. Our members were tired of eating turkey roll three times a week.

The Vietnam War was on going. A new military draft was just initiated. College students realized there was more going on than just furthering their education so to get a job, especially when current hiring was limited for graduates. Knowing so many uncertainties, apartment life looked good to some of our members. The new AGR exec council was made up of to be seniors Jim Ellis, Dick Baum, Dave Litscher and juniors Mike Borel and Wayne Fredericks. Our advisors were Dr. Marshall Juergens and Al Christian with AGR alumni board input from Joe Robinson and Marv Walters. From this group a selection committee was made for interviewing housemother candidates. The job description did not include lighting cigarettes, but emphasized teaching good manners and some new items: menu planning and budgeting.

Our committee of young men, just starting the job interview process ourselves, only this time to be on the hiring side of the interview process in Eta’s living room were very lucky. We easily trimmed our applicants down to two for second interviews including the smiling Mrs. Hazel Streit. Mrs. Streit, the friendly widow, was heartbroken from her job as housemother at ISU’s Beta Theta Pi house being eliminated. She felt bad that the Beta’s were going to give up the housemother tradition.

It seems to me by the spring of ’72 as I graduated the Eta chapter AGR’s:

- Continued to dominate campus activities
- Food got better with brother Bill Arnold as temporary cook
- Rhomates chapter was started, and we had better house parties
- Pledge recruiting process was developed
- Emphasis placed on grades continued
- Housemother apartment was always full of “developing better men”

Eta Chapter continued to make better men with Mom Streit’s influence for decades.

The Beta house missed out.



Dear Brothers:

I was very much honored to represent Eta Chapter of Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity at Mom Hazel Streit's memorial service. I was fortunate to be in the first pledge class in the fall of 1971 when she was our new Housemother, so we were new together. I think being an officer in the house strengthened our relationship, and in the years she worked at Estes Park, Colorado, she often stopped by our farm in Western Iowa to visit our young family. Those were 18 wonderful years for our Fraternity with Mom Streit's guidance and participation. I want to thank Dan and Sandy Peterson, (Mom's Granddaughter) whom she lived with in retirement for opening their house in Ames for those of us who came to see her in the 26 years after her retirement. They were always very welcoming to us who wanted to visit Mom.

One of those in attendance at the Memorial Service was Mom Jan Brown, who retired this past year from Housemother at Eta Chapter. I knew she had been honored at Eta's 100 year Anniversary Celebration last April, but I could not remember how many years she was Housemother, which she said 18, just like Mom Streit. Remarkable! I congratulated and thanked her for her service.

It says a great deal about the Fraternity's ability to pick out good Housemothers, and the longevity of the relationship between the Eta Chapter and the Housemother. A great deal of gratitude is owed to all the brothers who have made these such successful relationships. The tradition lives on.

John Fischer-1058



Photo taken September 3, 2009 at the "Glory Days Reunion" at the AGR House. Mom was 96 ½ at the time. Front row left to right: Charlie Brown, Randy Madden, Kipp Larsen, Mom Streit, Bill Parr, Kirk Kemper. Back row left to right: John Fischer, Wayne Fredericks, Fred Green, Steve Weymiller, Kerry Lynch, John Schneider, Bruce Lorch, Doug Lynch, Roger Webster, George Beardmore, Paul Huser.

My favorite Mom Streit memory...

In 1984, being a newly elected Noble Ruler, Mom Streit asked for permission to spend Christmas with her family at the fraternity. With a blessing from Alumni Board, her request was granted. We made extra effort to make sure the house was clean before leaving for the holidays. The Christmas tree and decorations were left up for her use. We assured her she would have the whole place to herself and her family.

Regretfully, Mark and Phil Core's dad passed away shortly after Christmas. Even though Mom's family was still celebrating Christmas, Mom wanted to attend the funeral. I told her I would pick her up and we would go to Pleasantville together for the funeral.

When I arrived at 201 Gray, I was totally amazed how our fraternity was transferred into a family home. There were toys under the Christmas tree and a high chair in the dining room. Mom Streit introduced me to her whole family. It was obvious her great granddaughter was the center of attention. Mom Streit had a radiant look I hadn't seen before. For the first time in years, she finally had a chance to spend Christmas with her family in her home.

As she looks down on us, I pray her spot in Heaven isn't anywhere near a "Blue Room" or an old loud staircase. Mom, thank you for everything you did for us.

Tom

Tom Brincks "1328"



Founders Day Announcement

Just as a reminder, on Sunday, April 19th 2015, we will be having Founders Day! The day will be held at the Gateway Hotel on the South side of Ames. The day will consist of an Alumni Meeting at 10:00am. After that, we will enjoy a meal at 12:00pm with an awards ceremony that will immediately follow. If you are planning on attending the 2015 Founders Day please RSVP with our VNR of Alumni Relations at:

agralumni.eta@gmail.com

SCHEDULE:

10 am: Alumni Meeting
12 pm: Meal & Ceremony

Many Talents Showcased at Varieties 2015

Singing, dancing, and acting are some of the words that come to mind when thinking of Varieties and the great entertainment it has provided for over 80 years. However, AGR's singing, dancing, and acting does not have such a storied tradition. That may be changing. This year Alpha Gamma Rho, Beta Sigma Psi, Gamma Phi Beta, and Alpha Delta Pi paired together to write, arrange, and choreograph an original "mini-musical" called "Whose Show is it Anyway?". After moving on past semi-finals, they performed February 20th and 21st, competing against three other pairings for individual awards and final placings. "Whose Show is it Anyway?" went on to take 2nd place and win 8 out of the 18 individual awards. With exciting dance numbers, and a humorous storyline about the makings of a Varieties show, the musical was a crowd pleaser every time it played. However, the show was not the only exhibition of talent and hard work from the men of 201 Gray.

Thomas Yoder, Michael Burt, and Michael Theis also managed to get some stage time and laughs as they teamed up with Benny Rohloff and Geoffrey Tajaran to emcee the preliminary and final rounds of Varieties. With bits that included lip-sync battles and scenes from a hat, these gentlemen helped keep the audience entertained and the show running smoothly.

However, not all of the AGR's involved in Varieties performed on a stage. Since October 2014 Varieties Central has been busy contacting judges, recruiting vignettes, promoting the show, and doing whatever necessary to ensure "the show goes on". AGR's on the Varieties Central Committee this year are as follows:

Scott McDonald – Director
Mathias Peters – Emcees and Vignettes Coordinator
Jake Showalter – Spotlight Coordinator
Mitchell Hora – Public Relations
Ben Ashland – Dramatics Coordinator
Jacob Weis – Technical Coordinator



Congratulations to our pairing and all those involved with Varieties 2015, and good luck next year!

Pairing Results:

1st place – A Not So Storybook Ending
2nd place – Whose Show is it Anyway
3rd place – Candyland

Individual Awards:

Best Music – Whose Show is it Anyway
Best Set – Whose Show is it Anyway
Best Band – Whose Show is it Anyway
Best Cameo – John Armstrong from Whose Show is it Anyway
Best Musical Number – "A Little Party" Mashup from Whose Show is it Anyway
Best Plot – Whose Show is it Anyway
Best Tech – Whose Show is it Anyway
Best Actress – Lucy Rosenberg as Demi Gelato



Mom's Journal

At the beginning of the spring semester I realized I was half way through my first year as the fraternity mom for Eta Chapter of AGR. The time has flown and it has been a very positive experience for me. As you know Jan Brown retired after 18 years, however she has remained interested in what is happening at AGR and has been very helpful to me. She is a wonderful resource and great historian. Eta chapter of AGR has a long and rich history. As I learned more about the fraternity one theme has been consistent. Past and present members view themselves as not only lifelong friends but also as brothers and take a lot of pride in their fraternity.

It has been enjoyable to participate in the teaching and education of AGR men related to life skills. This includes etiquette, resume' writing, preparing for job interviews, financial management, maintaining a healthy living environment, simple cooking/baking and laundry/ironing.

As usual the members have been involved in studies, committees, clubs, campus activities, livestock judging and recently finished 2nd in the Varieties competition. They are currently practicing for Lip Sync and preparing for Greek Week. Additionally, leadership skills are being used to prepare for the Cyclone Classic AGR Spring Show Down March 21 and 22.

The members are very grateful to their moms and past moms of AGR brothers who through the generosity of the AGR Ladies Auxiliary purchased a new piano for the house along with a cabinet to store related items. The piano is beautiful and is being enjoyed by the members. Several members are pretty good players.

Many of you know of course of the tragic death of Chelsey Henkenius, the beloved fiancé of Andrew Lauer. His love and commitment to Chelsey was evident when he spoke to the chapter thanking them for their support and describing what AGR has meant to him in the good times and in this time of grief and sorrow. The fraternity continues to keep Chelsey and her family in our prayers as well as Andrew and his family.

Our next big event is Mom's weekend on March 7. We are looking forward to having all the moms together and sharing a slice of AGR life with them. Events include lunch, touring the alumni center, annual auction and dinner with their sons and classmates.

This May 20 seniors will graduate and move on to the next chapter in their lives. As of February 90% of the graduates had accepted employment in different areas of agriculture. As a class these individuals have never had a combined GPA of less than 3.0 any semester at ISU. We will miss them, wish them only the best and look forward to their visits in the future.

Mom Diane Pinneke





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

SPRING SEMESTER EVENTS
Mark your calendars!

Founders Day - April 19
Formal - April 25
Finals Week - May 4-8

MEET THE EDITORS



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