



# ΑΓΡ

Eta Chapter Newsletter  
Iowa State University

# THE CRESCENT



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SPRING 2016

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# Active Chapter Report

Greetings Brothers,

I would like to introduce myself, my name is Chandler Bane and I will be serving as the Noble Ruler here at Eta Chapter for 2016. I was raised on a fourth generation grain and livestock farm in central Illinois. Our executive team is looking forward to putting forth a tremendous effort over the course of the next year to improve Eta Chapter and ensure a prosperous future.

The semester is off to a great start here at 201 Gray. Brothers have begun to settle into their schedules and have been hitting the books hard for the first and second round of tests which are just right around the corner. The Fall Semester Grade Report has been released and our effort was shown. It was another strong semester academically, as the chapter's GPA was a 3.17, ranking us 4th among the fraternities.

On the weekend of February 26th, the executive team, adviser Paul Heineman, and alumni Andrew Lauver traveled to Denver, CO to attend the annual AGR Leadership Conference. This was a two day conference which included many educational seminars and the opportunity for brothers to network with other AGR chapters across the nation ranging from Louisiana to California. In addition, we had the privilege to attend the awards banquet where alumni Chad Dummermuth received the Grand President's Award.

I have the pleasure in announcing that varieties this year was an outstanding success. Bringing home the first place trophy was a truly a proud moment for Eta chapter. This year the men of Alpha Gamma Rho were paired with the women of Chi Omega, and Gamma Phi Beta as well as the men of Sigma Phi Epsilon. They put in many hours of hard work and determination into their mini-musical titled "Two Hearts Beat as One".

This year, for Greek Week we will be with the women of Alpha Gamma Delta and the men of Phi Kappa Theta. We have another great showing as two brothers are serving on Greek Week Central as well as four brothers serving on Greek Week Crew. Lip Sync practices are currently in full swing, before a series of exciting events such as Greek Week Olympics, Tournaments, Community Service, and other fun activities.

On behalf of the active chapter, have a safe and enjoyable spring along with a prosperous year in 2016. We hope to see many of you at Founders' Day on April 17th.

Fraternally,



Chandler Bane "2171"  
Noble Ruler  
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## Bringing Back the Sweetheart



An old tradition that has been revived this spring is selecting an AGR Sweetheart. The active chapter decided it should be the senior class's right to select the Sweetheart for the entire house. They have chosen Lauren Larsen to play a more active role in our house's activities, even more so than before being entitled as our Sweetheart.

Lauren is majoring in Elementary Education with endorsements in math, reading, and coaching. Outside of her studies, Lauren works at a local daycare, tutors a 7th grader, and is an involved member of Gamma Phi Beta to further develop her social and professional skills. Lauren has had and continues to have close ties with Alpha Gamma Rho. Three members of her family are brothers at Eta Chapter, two of which served as Noble Ruler, and Lauren is currently dating recent alumni, Scott Opperman.

When asked what being named the AGR Sweetheart means to her, Lauren replied, "I am honored to be the sweetheart of Alpha Gamma Rho. Being the sweetheart of an agricultural fraternity not only relates to my childhood of being raised on a farm, but the men also exemplify life lessons I have learned through agriculture such as responsibility and perseverance. I would like to thank the gentlemen of Alpha Gamma Rho, Eta Chapter for choosing me to be their sweetheart."

Our intentions for bringing back the AGR Sweetheart were to honor a female student that has gained such respect from the Eta brothers by including her more in chapter functions. This may include frequent appearances at dinner, inclusion into select social events and philanthropies, or simply an open door invitation to visit with Mom Diane.

The brothers at Eta Chapters are very happy to know that Lauren will become even more of a familiar face in the halls of 201 Gray. Thank you, Lauren, for becoming such a positive influence on all of us, and congratulations!



## Grade Report

We had another exceptional semester for academics this past fall. The most notable accomplishment was achieved by our new initiate class who bested every other freshman class in the Greek community. Our new initiates won the contest by a large margin boasting a 3.38 average GPA in their first semester at Iowa State.

The Whole house average GPA came in at a 3.17 which moved the house to be the 4th highest among Fraternity's. In efforts to remain a very strong academic house we have been implementing a few additions to our current scholarship program. A in house book library has been put into place so members no longer need to purchase books for many of the core classes that they will take in their time and AGR. In addition to a book library the house will now be covering the whole cost of any tutors that members choose to utilize through the University. Our hope is that brothers will use these tools to assist in their academic success and that we will also be able to use these programs has even more incentive for potential new members to be recruited to become brothers at AGR.



Jeremy Tjardes "2173"

# The 85th Varieties: A Year to Remember

What a great year for the Eta chapter of Alpha Gamma Rho! After an awesome start to the year with a homecoming win this fall, we continue to show our success with a great outcome in Varieties! This year, Alpha Gamma Rho, Gamma Phi Beta, Chi Omega, and Sigma Phi Epsilon were paired together to write, arrange, and choreograph a mini-musical called “Two Hearts Beat as One”. Our show this year was a City and Country theme which worked out well for a lot of the men of Alpha Gamma Rho as most fit the role of country pretty well. After much work throughout the months of practices, we had a great performance and advanced on to the final round of three. There were a few more practices leading up to finals and then we performed one last time. Not only did we win overall, we claimed 9 of the 18 individual awards for our pairing!

However, not everyone performed on stage. Since October of last year, the members of Varieties Central have been busy with many different behind the scenes tasks to make sure the show is a success. We also had three great Tri-Chairs that helped write the script, choreograph, make the set, and various other tasks to ensure we did the best we could.

## AGR Tri-Chairs this year were:

Nolan Zumbach  
Michael Poggemiller  
Jake Lilienthal

## AGR's on Varieties Central Committee this year were:

John Armstrong – Judges and Trophies Coordinator  
Mathias Peters – Dramatics Coordinator  
Grant McMillan – Lights Coordinator  
Grant Heineman – Technical Coordinator

## Pairing Results:

1st Place – Two Hearts Beat As One  
2nd Place – The Music Inside  
3rd Place – Unbroken: A Toy's Story

## Individual Awards for Our Pairing:

The Vart	Nolan Zumbach
Best Male Vocalist	Matt Dahl
Best Female Vocalist	Angela Birch
Best Line	Michael Peters
Best Cameo	Nolan Zumbach & Austin Beaton
Best Actor	Matt Dahl
Best Supporting Actor	Michael Peters
Best Set	“Two Hearts Beat As One”
Best Musical Number	“Two Hearts Beat As One”



The Cast of “Two Hearts Beat As One”



The Co-Chairs of our winning pairing

## Lauver Emerging Leader



Brother Lauver and  
Dean Wintersteen

We would like to congratulate brother Andrew Lauver on being honored as the 2016 Emerging Iowa Leader by Iowa State University and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Lauver graduated in 2012 with his Bachelor of Science degree in agricultural studies and is a seed sales and service professional with DuPont Pioneer.

The award honors a CALS alumni who has taken on significant leadership roles early in their careers in bettering agriculture and life sciences in Iowa through communication, education, relationship-building, engagement, and are providing outstanding alumni service. Honorees must be 40 or younger at the time of nomination, live or work in Iowa, and demonstrate high potential for future professional growth. The Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences makes selection for the award.

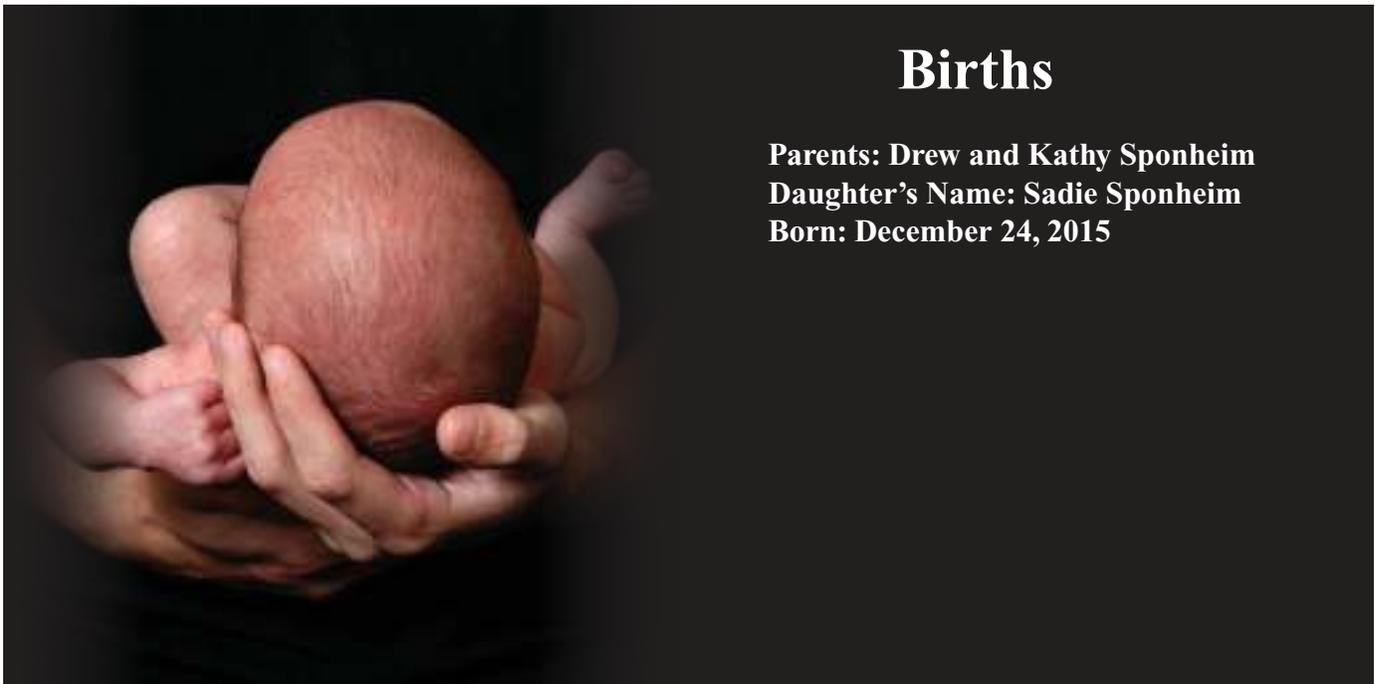
Brother Lauver was selected for making significant contribution in the college's young alumni program, The Curtiss League, which is an initiative providing recruitment and advocacy opportunities and recognition for alumni.

The president of the College of Ag, Wendy Wintersteen said, "Andrew's positive and enthusiastic support of our college has helped raise awareness for strategic initiatives and recruit students. Through his leadership and service he's a known and effective advocate for agriculture and demonstrates the impact our graduates make in their communities".

The award was presented at center court of Hilton Coliseum during the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences sponsored by the Cyclone Women's basketball game February 6th.



## Births



**Parents: Drew and Kathy Sponheim**  
**Daughter's Name: Sadie Sponheim**  
**Born: December 24, 2015**

## Mom's Journal

# TO MAKE BETTER MEN



On August 24th, 2015 Caleb Lichty “2219” began his freshman year at ISU. He followed in his father and uncles’ footsteps by attending ISU and by becoming part of the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity in Ames, Iowa. Unlike the other members of his pledge class, this was not Caleb’s first time as part of the group of 85 young men who call the fraternity at 201 Gray Ave home. However, it was the first time his brothers were not old enough to be his dad.

Caleb’s father Matt “1674” joined AGR in the fall of 1996. Matt married Caleb’s mom,

Tiffany, on November 28, 1997 when Caleb was 6 months old. A week later, Matt was killed in a tragic car accident on his way to an interview for a summer internship. Just days after celebrating his wedding, 90 of Matt’s AGR brothers were his honorary pallbearers.

Matt’s biological brothers, (also AGR alums) Chris “1678” and Joe “1751” together with Matt’s Fraternal brothers, determined that their devotion to their brother would be more than honorary. It would be honorable. They would provide their late brother’s family with whatever help they needed.

Everyone pitched in to shovel snow, mow lawn, fix leaky faucets and broken furnaces, and even washed dishes. In addition, they provided day care for Caleb several days a week, allowing Tiffany to work part time and complete her Pharmacy degree at Drake University. Caleb spent his summers at the Lichty farm with his mom and grandparents Randy and Pat Lichty, and visited grandparents Alfred and Sue Albers. Caleb spent the school year with a different group of “relatives”.

During the 5 remaining years it took for Tiffany to complete her degree, the AGR men watched



Above left photo: Caleb with Cook Leila Coe



Above right photo: Quilt presentataion to Caleb in 2000

Caleb grow from infant to toddler to little boy. They matured with him, baby proofing the fraternity, changing diapers, preparing formula and feeding Caleb. They helped potty train him, nursed him through illnesses, and, probably hardest, set limits for him. Caleb lost his first dad, but he gained 90 uncles. His mom, (now Tiffany Lichty-Gaffey), stated at the time: “It is nice for Caleb to have that male figure in his life, and it was good for me because I knew he was safe.”

In 2000, Iowa Governor Tom Vilsack issued a proclamation declaring April 20, 2000

Alpha Gamma Rho day, to honor the fraternity’s efforts in helping Caleb and Tiffany. Following the declaration, the fraternity members received a standing ovation from the floor of the Iowa Senate.

Each Fall, AGR in Ames holds the “BBQ Before Books” fundraiser. The philanthropy was initially intended to raise money for Caleb’s college expenses. Once that was no longer necessary, it was decided to continue the fundraiser for other worthy causes. The AGR motto is “To make better Men”. Who knew a little boy would help them achieve that goal.

Today, Caleb is majoring in Ag Engineering, and is involved once again in day to day life at the Ames fraternity. He now has the responsibility to “Nurture, Grow, Give, Repeat”. And he knows his dad would be proud of him today, because Matt left him great examples to imitate. Welcome home, Caleb.

Diane Pinneke  
AGR House Mother



# Photo Album



TOP LEFT (left to right) Brothers Michael Peters, Sam Gerrard, and Trey Wiese participating in the winning Varieties show!

LEFT CENTER The Executive Board, Advisor Paul Heineman and Alumni Andrew Lauver at AGR Leadership Conference in Denver, CO.

BOTTOM LEFT You may have noticed a new vehicle parked at 201 Gray Ave. Excited to grill around campus with this new beauty!

BOTTOM CENTER The Men of the N.I. Class of 2015 lit up 201 Gray this Christmas!

TOP CENTER (left to right) Brothers Jacob Lauver, Ben Ashland, and Harrison Kruse show off the rewards of a successful first day of trapping season.

TOP RIGHT Brothers pictured with Dr. Ben Carson following a campaign speech on the AGR front lawn.

RIGHT CENTER The Disney Castle outside the house during Homecoming.

BOTTOM RIGHT (left to right) Brothers Jacob Lauver, Delmer Goettsch, Marc Meyer, and Scott Opperman slicing potatoes for our Agger Fries philanthropy.



## 2nd Century Giving Project

Brothers,

We announced at homecoming a very exciting addition to the house that will enhance quality of life, and make our house competitive for years to come. In short: we are expanding the dining room and balcony, adding living room space and study rooms above it, creating a “grand entrance” with the expansion of the foyer, remodeling all other common space, and adding air-conditioning. Suffice it to say that it is the most ambitious expansion of our house since the new addition in 1960! A fitting start to a new century at Eta. Full plans and details are available at the campaign website [www.etasecondcentury.com](http://www.etasecondcentury.com).

As an update, because of interactions with Ames Planning and Zoning, we have modified the plans a bit, but kept the same square footage and intent. This has, however delayed bids and start of construction by 2 months. We still intend to get the project started this summer and need your help to finish off the first phase of fundraising.

**Many of you have generously verbally pledged your support over the last few months, and now it is important to convert those verbal commitments to written ones.** In order to use pledges in our financing, we need written pledge commitments from each brother. We have included an envelope in this Crescent, and you can also donate online at [www.etasecondcentury.com](http://www.etasecondcentury.com). Every gift is important and we'd love to count each and every alumnus as a supporter of this project. As you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact Mike Nissly or me at the information below.

I will leave you with a quote from Paul Kruse, #1200, and donor to the project: “When I came to the AGR House I was a young kid, I thought I had a lot of close friends, knew what I wanted to do in life and didn't need much help. When I left 201 Gray, I left as a man, who has brothers for life that helped me get where I am today. I'll never be able to repay what AGR has done for me, but this is a start”.

Thank you for your support of Alpha Gamma Rho.

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### HOW DO I GIVE?

Return the envelope enclosed with this Crescent, or pledge online at [www.etasecondcentury.com](http://www.etasecondcentury.com).

### CAN PLEDGES BE SPREAD OUT OVER A PERIOD OF TIME?

Yes – most brothers pledge their support over a 5-year period – the treasurer will send you reminders annually. This allows the house to use the entire pledge for financing purposes, but spreads the cost to you over 5 years.

### WHAT ARE MY OPTIONS FOR GIVING?

Cash and in-kind donations of grain, stocks or land. You can also choose to have your checking account auto-debited on a regular basis (talk to Mike, or visit our website for details.).

### HOW WILL I BE RECOGNIZED?

We plan to have a Recognition Wall located in the lobby or foyer area of the house, with recognition at different increments of giving. Naming opportunities are also available.



## National Grand President Award



Congratulations to Brother Chad Dummermuth. At the recent Alpha Gamma Rho National Leadership Seminar in Denver, Colorado, he was awarded the prestigious National Grand President Award for Professional Achievement. The seminar was February 26th-27th, and our current chapter executive board was fortunate enough to be in attendance when he accepted this renowned award. The award recognizes brothers under the age of 40 for outstanding success in their professional careers. Recipients are outstanding role models to not only the undergraduates within the chapters, but to recent alumni who have just entered the professional world. Brother Dummermuth has represented Eta chapter

with utmost integrity and dedication, and his hard work has not gone unnoticed. He is only one of six Eta chapter alumni who have been awarded the National Grand Presidents Award since its establishment in 1991. Only four brothers from across the nation receive this award every year which exemplifies just how significant of an accomplishment this is for Brother Dummermuth.

Brother Dummermuth was a very active undergraduate during his times at 201 Gray Avenue and received his degree in Agricultural Business from 1991-1994. He has spent his time with Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc. where he currently works as a Supply Chain Manager out of Des Moines, Iowa. Besides the countless hours he puts towards Pioneer, he also still stays in touch with Eta chapter as he is the Eta Chapter Alumni Board Scholarship chair. It cannot go unsaid that he is an incredibly loyal Cyclone fan and never gives up an opportunity to cheer them on.

On behalf of the current undergraduates here at Eta Chapter and all of our presiding alumni, thank you Brother Dummermuth for all of your strenuous efforts to represent Alpha Gamma Rho well and make the agricultural industry so great. Alumni like you are why this brotherhood is so great and will continue to be great for many years to come. All of the current Eta chapter undergraduates look at Brother Dummermuth as an incredible role model, and we are excited to see what other young Eta alumnus will be the next recipient of the National Grand President Award for Professional Achievement.

Shayne Wiese "2158"



## Mom's Weekend Thank You's

On March 5 and 6th the fraternity again celebrated Mom's weekend, a long standing tradition at AGR. It was a fun weekend with a very successful auction. Cooper Royer was awarded the \$1500 scholarship from the AGR Mom's Auxiliary.. Thank you to all the moms that year after year make this such a success.



## Alpha Gamma Rho

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We are always happy to have Alumni come and be dinner guests. If you would like to come talk about your career, helpful tips, family, or recreate some old stories feel free to contact me at [heineman@iastate.edu](mailto:heineman@iastate.edu) and I can get you in touch with the dinner guest chairs!

Grant Heineman  
"2185"  
VNR of Alumni Relations

## Founder's Day Reminder

April 17th at the Iowa State Alumni Center  
Alumni Board Meeting at 10 am  
Lunch and Program at noon  
Please RSVP to [agralumni.eta@gmail.com](mailto:agralumni.eta@gmail.com) by April 10th

## Meet the Editors



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