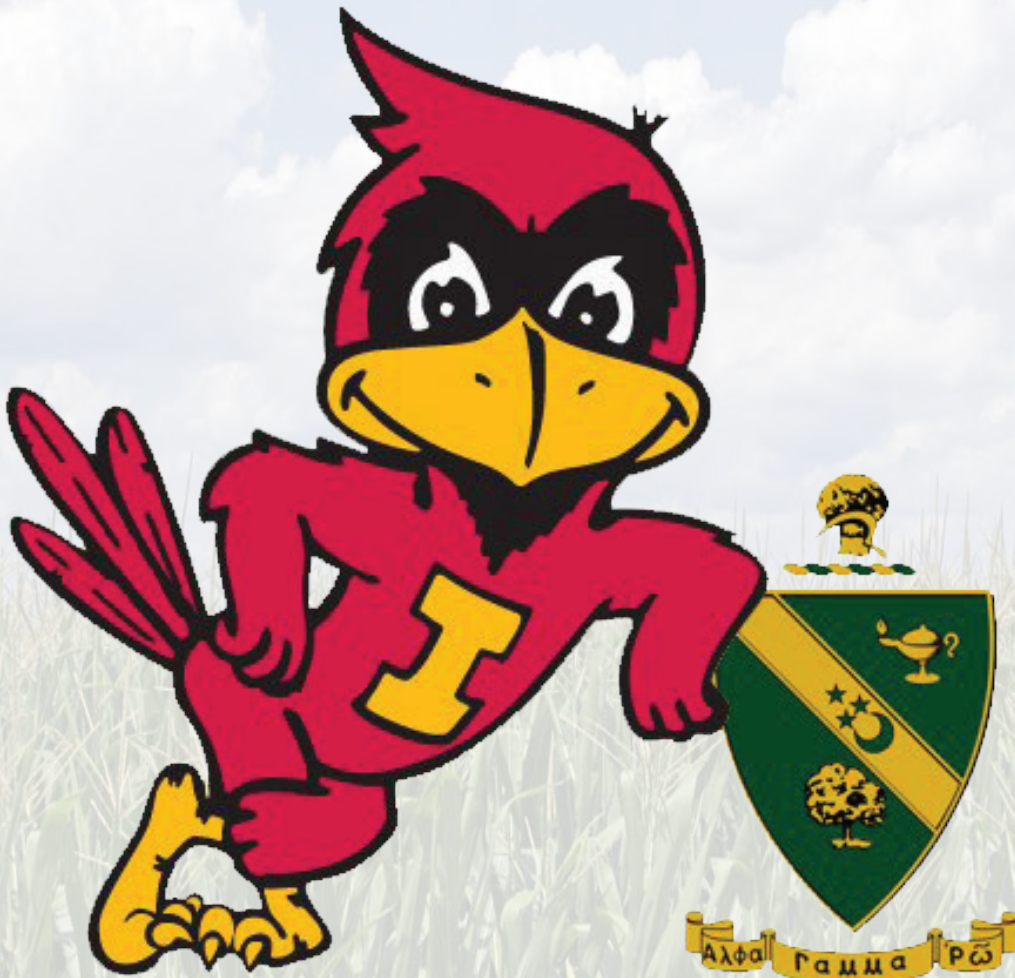




ΑΓΡ

Eta Chapter Newsletter
Iowa State University

THE CRESCENT



FALL 2020

Noble Ruler Report

Hello again,

I hope this Crescent finds you in good spirits during what I hope is a successful harvest for most of you. For those of you affected by the derecho storm back in August, our hearts and prayers go out to you and your families. I cannot fathom how gut wrenching that is for you and your families, but we as agriculturalists are resilient, and I have faith you will come back stronger than before.

The men of Eta Chapter had a very unordinary, but successful, summer of in-person and virtual internships with companies such as Merck, JBS, Kuhn, PIC, Sygenta, and Corteva, just to name a few. Almost the entirety of the senior class has full-time jobs lined up following graduation, and almost all of them stem from an internship they did during their time living here at 201 Gray Ave. Year after year, AGR proves just how important internships are in early career placement for graduating seniors.

This summer, Eta Chapter was honored with a number of awards from National Alpha Gamma Rho during this year's virtual National Convention. We took the Highest Honor in 9 of the 14 awards (Committed Alumni Corporation, Continued Alumni Engagement, Housemother Management, Housemother Development, Communications, Academic Excellence, Recruitment Excellence, Lifelong Membership Development, and Living the Promise and Values.) We were also High Honor in Best Crescent Feature Story, and Honorable Mention in Outstanding Philanthropic Efforts. While we did not bring the Maynard back for the 2nd convention in a row, we all can be proud of the accomplishments we have achieved, and the recognition Eta Chapter receives year after year.

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, many of the long-standing traditions we have enjoyed during Homecoming have been cancelled for the year; Yell Like Hell, Lawn Display, and the in-person Homecoming Celebration held at the fraternity will not happen this fall. However, we came up with what I believe is a great opportunity to maintain membership involvement and show our appreciation to the very people that feed the world. Following the derecho storm, we took it upon ourselves to show our gratitude towards the many farmers who were affected by the storm. During the week of Sept 27th, we delivered hundreds of meals to farmers at nearby grain elevators as a part of what we call Aggers Helping Farmers. I would imagine we delivered a few meals to some of you.



Thanks again,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Connor Hultman".

Connor Hultman
Noble Ruler
"2268"



Mom's Report

How AGR Prepared for the Return of Members

This has not been a normal year at ISU or AGR, as everyone knows. One of the young men described the feeling this year at ISU as “kind of weird.” That probably says it as well as anything. The abrupt end to the classes in March, a summer of isolation, wearing masks, social distancing, and concerns about spreading the coronavirus was followed by classes resuming earlier than usual, changes at AGR, and the realization that many classes would be online while only some would be held in person.

Prior to the resuming of classes at ISU and life at AGR, Alumni Board President, Kyle Staley, and AGR Noble Ruler, Connor Hultman, spent time over the summer researching and preparing for an as-safe-as-possible return of 97 young men to AGR. This information was shared by email with members and their parents prior to classes resuming.

The information provided shared research and contained not only what the changes and strategies would be at AGR, but also why these decisions and options were made. It contained information that recognized that the layout, utilization, and activity raised the risk when compared to living at home. It stated: “If any member or parent was uncomfortable with this risk they would be allowed to seek alternative residence for the year.” However, it was asked “that they not attend any chapter functions because that would render the alternative ineffective.”

Additional strategies were put in place.

- Cold air dorms would be equipped with sheeting between beds as well as an increase in fans and ventilation equipment for increased air exchange.
- Weekly chapter meetings would be hosted in the dining room which provides more space.
- Daily meals in the dining room would allow for more space between members and decrease the number of members present at one time.
- Members with jobs at nearby packing plants and the local hospital were well equipped with PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) from their places of employment to prevent transmission to working members.
- Masks in all public areas in the fraternity were highly recommended.
- Hand sanitizers were placed at entrances and in the dining room.
- The kitchen was off-limits to all members (except waiters and k-crew).
- Changes were made to the way meals were served.
- Bathroom cleaning duties would be done at least twice and 3-4 times a day, if needed.
- An isolation area would be set up for any member(s) that tested positive or was in close extended contact with a person who tests positive.



Finally, virtual calls with parents and members were hosted on July 28 and July 30 to walk through the document they had received, share plans, and answer questions. Thus the 2020 college year began.

Diane Pinneke
AGR Housemother Eta Chapter



Membership Development Report

Hello, my name is Max Halstead and I am a junior studying Agricultural Engineering here at Iowa State. This year I am serving as the VNR of Membership Development. My main goal within this position is to ensure that all members are set up for success not only within the halls of Alpha Gamma Rho, but as well as on campus and in the workplace. With this goal in mind, my assistant team and I have working with the new members to make sure they are all getting off on the right foot and so far, they all have been doing great!

One new thing we have implemented this year into the new member program is a professional development class. This class is led by Ross Cady who is our Ag Placement Chair. Ross has been hosting classes every Wednesday night with all the new members to discuss topics ranging from professionalism in the workplace, career fair dynamics, and basic fundamental skills of what we expect a professional AGR to look like. This past week Ross sat down with each of the new members to clean and spruce up their resumes, so they are ready to go for career fair come Oct. 13th - 14th. In the upcoming weeks, Ross plans to work through behavioral interview questions and how to approach answering them. After they have covered this topic, we will have mock interviews lined up with various alumni members to get the new members a real feel as to what an internship interview will look like. Overall this class has been extremely successful in helping the new members be one step ahead everyone else on campus.

Unfortunately, this year has been a lot different compared to others, and we've seen that here on campus. Most all of the events that we are used to participating in during the Fall semesters have either been moved to a virtual format or cancelled all together. A few of our most beloved traditions such as Yell Like Hell, lawn display, tournaments, etc. will not be happening this year due to Homecoming cancelling their events. Not only are we seeing a decline in involvement opportunities through those events, but we are also seeing this in our clubs. Although most clubs are still able to have meetings on campus or online, a lot of them are not able to host events and activities outside of general meetings for their members to attend and get involved in.

There have certainly been a lot of curveballs and unexpected this semester so far, but overall the new members have been getting along great with their classes, in the house, and in their clubs on campus. It has really been fun to already see the growth they have made within the first few months of being here! Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions!



Respectfully,
Max Halstead



Internship Spotlight



JAMES CHISM

My name is James Chism, and I am a sophomore studying agricultural business. This past summer I served as a Crop Protection Marketing and Sales Intern for Corteva Agri science in Johnston, IA. I had the opportunity to work on a variety of projects throughout the summer.

The first half was devoted to various marketing projects, generally along the customer service or market research lines. The second half was dedicated to the preparation and presentation of various demonstration plots and technology demos across Iowa and Nebraska. I really enjoyed the culture at Corteva, how supportive everyone I met within the company is, the opportunity to play apart in living out the company's purpose, and the ability to take initiative within a variety of projects. Like most everyone and their careers, my internship, too, was affected by Coronavirus. I was relocated to Johnston, IA from my initial placement in Sheridan, IN. However, it ended up being a positive change as I worked virtually for a while, allowing me to meet people across the U.S. and work on a much wider array of projects than I otherwise would have. Additionally, I was able to travel out to an Enlist Tech Demo in York, Nebraska for a considerable amount of time working there as well, which was a great experience. I am very grateful for the summer that I had, and appreciative of Corteva for honoring the opportunity.

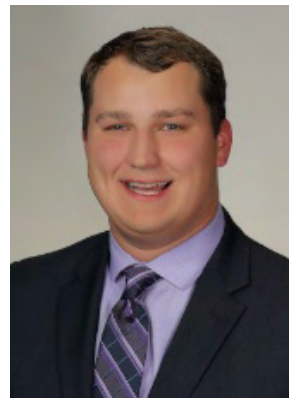


ZACK LEIST

My name is Zack Leist, a Senior in Agricultural Business, Economics, and International Ag with a minor in Agronomy. This past summer I worked for Syngenta Crop Protection working in Sales and Government Affairs. In the sales role I met with many retailers across the state of Iowa and gathered visuals of

trial products to be used in pitch books (sale guides) this upcoming year. I worked with customers on any issues

there were with Syngenta products and would report any findings back to the territory representative. I also spent quite some time with different sales representatives across the state learning about our chemical portfolio and sales practices. Some products I specifically worked with included Saltro seed treatment, Acuron Herbicide, Sequence Herbicide, Endigo Insecticide, and Miravis Neo/ Trivapro fungicides. Through the summer I learned so much about Syngenta as a company, and then the issues the crop protection industry faces in the future. Every day I felt I learned something new, but it also challenged me which I enjoyed. The people I worked with cared about my growth throughout the summer and wanted me to learn as much as possible. It was reassuring that not only do I love sales and the crop protection industry, but that I was with the right company. I am very proud to say that next year at this time I will be in a full-time position with Syngenta in their DSR program.



LOGAN HOFFMAN

My name is Logan Hoffman a junior studying Animal Science from Clarence, Iowa. This past summer, I was a production intern for Schwartz Farms on their large-scale hog operation. I worked in the 3 phases of hog production: breeding, farrowing, and wean-to-finish. I was under the supervision of department

leads and site managers and learned a lot about PCAI techniques, different ways of farrowing, and how GDU's work. One of my favorite parts about my internship was working in the breeding department, handling all sorts of situations. Daily, I dealt with sow management and figuring out how we can best produce as many pigs as possible. I really enjoyed how they set their internship up into different phases. I spent 3 weeks in each phase and then my last 3 weeks got to choose what I wanted to learn more about. It allowed me to see the whole company and learn a lot. I also really enjoyed the other interns and getting to know them

The logo for ATP, consisting of the letters 'A', 'T', and 'P' in a stylized, bold font. The letters are yellow with a green outline and a drop shadow effect.

Internship Spotlight

and spend the whole summer together. Next summer, I would like to pursue a sales position internship whether it is with Elanco, Merck, Cargill, or another influential employer in the swine production industry.



ANDREW BOSCHERT

My name is Andrew Boschert, a sophomore majoring in Animal Science and minoring in Genetics from Beaver Dam, Wisconsin. Following my freshman year, I was the Breeding and Gestation intern for PIC at their Genetic Nucleus Facility- Apex in Mound City, South

Dakota. My responsibilities this summer lead me to spending most of my time in the breeding barn and in the gilt development unit. I had the opportunity to work with PIC's most genetically elite females across 9 different pure lines in a 3,100-sow facility. Within the breeding department, my tasks included the following: PCAI (post cervical artificial insemination) mating, estrus detection and behavior, checking for and administering treatments for sick animals, and daily animal husbandry. With my interest in genetics, my favorite part of the internship was learning about the research currently taking place within the swine industry. I was able to perform DNA collection and processing, phenotypic and genotypic tests, pathogenic immunity for maternal antibodies, and learn about gene editing for PRRS (porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome) resistance in pigs. In the gilt development unit, I was able to conduct management techniques to get the gilts ready for their transition to the breeding barn to reproduce. I was also able to move around the production cycle to learn about farrowing and boar sales to help me learn the implications and how connected each phase of the swine production cycle is. I am appreciative of PIC and very thankful for a great summer as the Breeding and Gestation intern at PIC's Apex Genetic Nucleus Facility.



JAKE HLAS

My name is Jake Hlas a senior studying Agriculture & Society from Traer, IA. This past summer I was a Cattle Field Sales Intern Merck Animal Health based in Central Iowa. My role was to contact and visit with current Merck accounts, as well as prospective customers. These interactions led to discussion about the

Merck Portfolio of products and opened new doors for sale opportunities. Due to Covid- 19, my day to day tasks were changed dramatically. From a completely field-based internship, to nearly 100% virtual. With that being said, for one of my projects I was given an extensive list of current Merck accounts in Iowa, Illinois, and Missouri, and then was tasked with calling on these customers to find ways to solve their problems and hardships, in terms of animal health. During a summer where many internships were canceled, Merck Animal Health did not want our experience to be wasted. We had committed to them as a company, and they wanted to stay committed to us gaining a valuable experience. My favorite aspect of the internship was calling on Midwest cattlemen to learn about their operations and management styles. Being that I also come from a cattle background, these conversations came naturally and were beneficial for both parties. I also enjoyed the chance to connect with several full-time employees at Merck. After graduation in May, my goal is to pursue a career with sales or travel out east to Washington DC to find employment in agricultural policy.

ATP

ETA Chapter Founder's Day Alumni Award Nominations

Each year at Founder's Day, we have the unique opportunity to recognize alumni for their exceptional contributions to the world of Ag and the communities we call home. Please review the award details below and consider your nominations for those deserving of this recognition.

- In 1956, the Eta Chapter Alumni Corporation introduced the Alumni Achievement Award to recognize and honor one member for outstanding achievement and major contributions to the collegiate chapter, the Eta Alumni Corporation and Eta Educational Foundation.
- In the 1970's, a second award called the Agricultural Leadership Award was introduced. This award recognizes Agricultural leadership keeping with the ideals of Alpha Gamma Rho.
- In 1980, we began recognizing a 25th and 50th Year Testimonial Award. These 2 awards are given to deserving alumni that have shown superior dedication and service to Eta Chapter of Alpha Gamma Rho. The requirement is that brother was initiated at least 25 and 50 years ago respectively

To submit your nomination, please email the contacts below with the following information included.

- Award(s) being nominated for:
- Nominee's Name:
- Current Place of Residence:
- Family Information:
- Key Contributions and Achievements for consideration:

The alumni board and collegiate chapter executive team will collaborate to make the final award recipient selections. Thank you for your nominations and opportunity to recognize the great work of our brothers!

Kyle Staley – Alumni Board President
kyle.staley@gmail.com

Jacob Sterle – VNR of Alumni Relations
jakester@iastate.edu

ETA Chapter Alumni Board Nominations

Our Alumni Board plays an important role focusing on the success of our Alumni Corporation and Educational Foundation while ensuring we have a Strategic Plan that will maintain Eta Chapter's preeminence both at Iowa State University as well as Nationally. Each year, our alumni board rotates 3 members off the board following a 3-year commitment and that enables 3 new alumni the opportunity to engage and make an impact. The alumni board commitment begins with Founders Day. As an alumni board member, you will engage with the collegiate members, board members, alumni, Iowa State University leaders, and leaders with our national fraternity. This unique opportunity is a 3-year commitment and the board formally meets at least 4 times per year.

- To submit your nomination, please email the contacts below with the following information included.
- Nominee's Name:
- Current Place of Residence:
- Family Information:
- Key Contributions, Achievements and Interests in giving back for consideration:

Kyle Staley – Alumni Board President
kyle.staley@gmail.com

Jacob Sterle – VNR of Alumni Relations
jakester@iastate.edu



Alumni Spotlight

Our 2020 Fall Alumni Spotlight is Brother Dave McDonald, pin number “1358.” Dave grew up on the McDonald family hog farm near Ryan, Iowa. They grew mainly corn which was primarily used as feed for their farrow-to-finish operation. Having a background in livestock production, Dave pursued a Bachelor of Science degree, majoring in Animal Science from Iowa State University.

Dave was initiated with his pledge class in 1984 (recruited by Rush Chairs: Mark Wilson and Dan Stockdale). He heard of AGR from his brother, Tom McDonald, who was also a member of our fraternity joining as Junior Transfer in 1983. Being separated three years in age, they enjoyed each other’s company only one year in the house (Dave a Freshman and Tom a Senior). Dave said this was the only time they had gone to the same school at the same time since he was in second grade. The tradition of Alpha Gamma would not end with him, but continued with his son Scott, pin number “2110”, who joined in 2011, as well as three nephews: Brad and Ben McDonald and Shane Bockenstedt.

During his college career, McDonald held leadership positions on campus and within the fraternity. On campus, he involved himself in VEISHEA and Student Alumni Association. His senior year he took a position on the senior class council. Within AGR, he was elected to the position of Pledge Trainer his sophomore year and was the chapter’s Chaplain his senior year. Dave believes the competitive spirit within the house along with the encouragement to do more was a driving force as to why he took part in the activities he did.

McDonald’s experiences he gained from his college years led him to where he works today. The summer after his junior year of college, he interned with OSI Group, a multinational food production company headquartered in Aurora, Illinois. Then he began his career within the same company after graduating, taking on a project management role. Now after 33 years, Dave is the Chief Operating Officer (COO) and President of OSI Group. Just this past year (2019), he was awarded the North American Meat Institute E. Floyd Forbes Award for his service to the Meat Industry.

Along with a successful career, Dave has been married for 28 years to his wife Mindy. They live in Wheaton, Illinois. Together, they have six children: Scott, Megan, Katie, Brian, Clare, and Bridget. Dave is most proud of his family and the children he and Mindy have raised. He spends as much of his time away from work with family and along with Mindy proudly watching them succeed in pursuing their dreams.

When asked about what advice he would give to the collegiate chapter, he offered the following. “Be yourself. Do not follow the crowd, do something because you want to. Be honest with yourself and to others. Be open to new things, different cultures and new ways of thinking. Take a class no one you know has taken. Be open to differences in opinion. Welcome differences and offer your own. Perhaps befriend someone who comes from a different background than you, a different culture, a different ethnicity. Learn swear words in their language. Learn how to say thank you, please, and “beer” in their language. Show them your background. Invest in relationships. Make good friends. Be a good friend.”



Dave McDonald



NI Spotlight



Ben Thompson
Zumbrota, MN
Junior
Ag Engineering



Brodrick Schmidt
Adel, IA
Freshman
Ag Business



Will Lapke
La Motte, IA
Freshman
Ag Business



Ian Latham
Sheffield, IA
Freshman
Ag Business



Braden Beinhart
Indianola, IA
Freshman
Ag Engineering



Ian Johnson
Marysville, OH
Freshman
Animal Science



Easton Hultman
Red Oak, IA
Freshman
Ag Business



Prescott Jeckel
Delevan, IL
Freshman
Ag Bio Chem



Ethan Clewell
Gilbert, IA
Freshman
AST



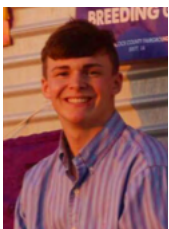
Ben Trio
Mapleton, MN
Freshman
Ag Engineering



Jacob Nelson
Perry, IA
Freshman
Ag Business



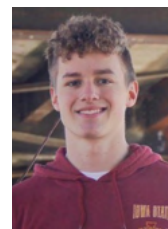
Devin Devore
Osceola, IA
Ag and Society
Freshman



Bronson Forsyth
Charles City, IA
Freshman
Ag Business

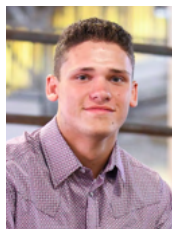


Evan Bixby
Waverly, IA
Freshman
Ag Business



Kody Koberg
Durant, IA
Freshman
Ag Business

NI Spotlight



Blake Webel
Arcadia, IN
Freshman
Animal Science



Jacob Honkomp
Winterset, IA
Freshman
Animal Science



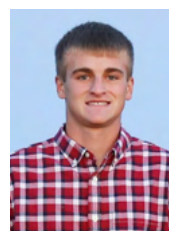
Robbie Taylor
Peoria, IL
Freshman
Ag Business



Noah Sletten
Osage, IA
Freshman
Ag Business and
Accounting



Daniel Hemphill
Morning Sun, IA
Freshman
Ag Business



Charley Zylstra
Sibley, IA
Freshman
Ag Business



Brett Baccan
Mount Pleasant, IA
Freshman
Forestry



Lane Harbage
South Charleston, OH
Freshman
AST



Jacob Bockman
Milford, IA
Freshman
Ag Studies



Tate Phillips
Holstein, IA
Freshman
Animal Science



Logan Crawford
Quasqueton, IA
Freshman
Animal Ecology



Legacy Spotlight

Don Nickerson

Don Nickerson grew up in Mitchell County, graduating from St. Ansgar High School. He was the oldest of six children growing up on a farm which consisted of row crops, laying hens and FFA projects of pigs and sheep. He was the first in the family to go to four-year college. His three younger brothers also made the decision to attend ISU and to pledge AGR. Don's experience of growing up on the farm and gaining leadership opportunities in FFA and 4-H made Iowa State University and the Ag College a natural choice.

Since graduating in 1980, Don has spent most of his career in banking having first worked for Brenton Banks and then Wells Fargo. In 2004, he was presented with the opportunity to start a bank in West Des Moines for Northwest Bank. For Don, this has been a very rewarding experience to grow a business from its infancy to a significant bank in the Des Moines market.

Don has many great memories of Iowa State and AGR where he grew his leadership skills. Some of the opportunities included President of the Student Alumni Association, chair of a VEISHEA sub-committee and Community Chest committee. In the house, Don was involved in Variety skit, Greek Week activities and VEISHEA.

Don cherishes the long-lasting deep relationships formed with brothers. Some of his greatest memories include road trips to pledge brother's farms, away football games, Friday afternoons on the balcony, evenings in the blue room, bowl game trips Birmingham and Atlanta, pledge skips to K – State and Minnesota, Monday nights making popcorn and the AGR's that gathered in their room.

In the house, Don learned the importance of the work hard/play hard mentality while giving back to the community and getting involved to move everything to the next level. He learned the tremendous benefit of networking and forming meaningful relationships. To this day, his pledge class gets together every five years to rekindle those relationships and to tell the same stories that make them laugh to this day.

Don gives back to AGR because it provided him a platform and support to grow, gain confidence and to experience success. He is so proud of the generations of extremely successful AGR's and proud to say that he is an AGR. Many of his closest friends and people he trusts are AGR's and the chance to contribute both financially and with his time is a great joy with the knowledge that the support is an investment in the future of agriculture and Iowa.



Don Nickerson





Alpha Gamma Rho

Eta Chapter, Iowa State University

201 Gray Avenue

Ames, Iowa 50014

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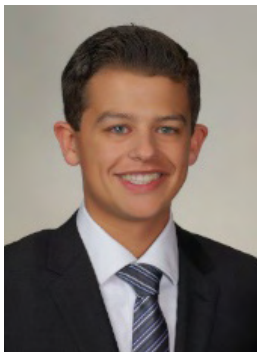
www.isuagr.360alumni.com

ATP

KEY UPCOMING DATES

TBA: Founders' Day

Meet the Editors



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