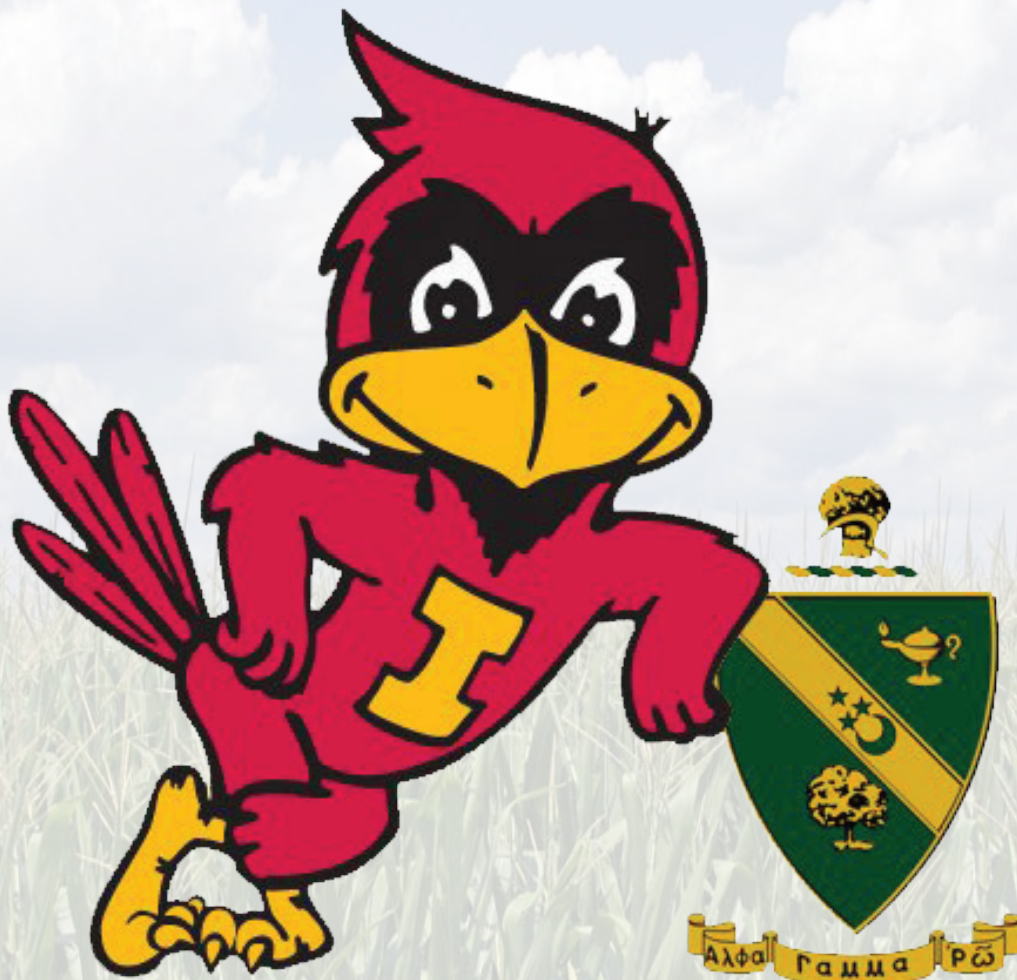




ΑΓΡ

Eta Chapter Newsletter
Iowa State University

THE CRESCENT



— SPRING 2021 —

Noble Ruler Report

Brothers,

My name is Cole Eden. I am currently a junior at Iowa State University, majoring in Agricultural Business with an Agronomy minor. I am from the small town of Titonka, IA, where I was raised on a family farm in northcentral Iowa. I have the extreme privilege of serving 201 Gray as Eta Chapter's Noble Ruler for 2021. Last year, I served in the role of VNR of Recruitment. During one of the most unique recruiting years to date, we successfully recruited a class of 26 members, hailing from Iowa, Ohio, Indiana, Minnesota, and Illinois. These individuals are currently pursuing a combined 8 different majors within the College of Ag & Life Sciences. We are proud to have 24 of the 26 new initiates retained this second semester. I am very excited and honored to have been chosen to lead this organization and for the opportunity to represent Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity.

While COVID-19 has altered almost every aspect of life, some things will never change here at 201 Gray. Academic achievement and campus involvement are just two of the many traditions and expectations we still see from our members. In the Fall 2020 semester, our members obtained a house GPA of 3.38. This ranked us 2nd amongst fraternities and included 45 members who made Dean's List.

On campus, our members have done a fantastic job gaining leadership experiences as well. We proudly house the President and Vice President of the College of Ag & Life Sciences Council (Nathan Behrends & Parker Kliegl), two Greek Week Central Directors (Andy Boschert & Spencer Cook), a Bacon Expo Tri-Chair (Andy Boschert), the President of ASABE (James Griswold), 3 Ag Business Club Exec Members (James Chism, Cale Pellett, Noah Sletten), the Sargent of Arms for Block & Bridle (Nathan Manternach), All 5 Exec positions for Swine Production Advocates (Logan Hoffman, Andy Boschert, Isaac Wiley, Blake Webel, Nathan Rea), 5 executive members of Farm Operations Club (Brock Durlinger, Nathan Orban, Bryce Lafrenz, Spencer Collins, Brett Schiele), 2 additional exec members for ASABE (Max Halstead & Gabe Shultz, dozens of CALS Ambassadors, and the IFC VP of Council Operations (Cale Pellett), as well as many other positions across campus.

With last semester's Homecoming events being cancelled, our members are very excited to participate in this year's Greek Week, where we are paired with the wonderful women of Alpha Delta Pi and Alpha Sigma Kappa. The NI class, and multiple upperclassmen have been practicing three times a week towards our lip sync skit of "Greek-XAR," a PIXAR-themed performance. This year's Greek Week is March 21st-28th.

We look forward to many planned events later this spring as well. We are hoping to be able to have either in-person, hybrid, or entirely virtual Mom's Weekend, Dad's Weekend, and Founder's Day, all pending university restrictions and regulations as the year continues and as ISU continues to monitor COVID-19 cases on campus. We are in the works of having an on-campus philanthropy this Spring, where we will be working with the women of Sigma Alpha to host this event.

Although this past year has brought much uncertainty, cancelled many events, and forced us to distance ourselves from those we care about, I want to thank each and every one of our alumni who continue to support the active members of our fraternity. Without your support, our members would not have near the opportunities we are so lucky to have as men of Alpha Gamma Rho. If you ever find yourself in the Ames area wanting a house tour, or have any questions/concerns with the house, feel free to reach out to myself or our current VNR of Alumni Relations (Gabe Shultz), and we would be happy to assist you.



Fraternally,

Cole Eden
Noble Ruler



Mom's Report

The Spring semester of 2021 began on 1-25-21. It started very much like the fall semester ended. Some classes are online and some classes are in person. Men are studying and attending classes online in the board room, formal living room, study rooms, and sometimes in the dining room. The mask requirement at the university remains the same and the social moratorium for the Greek community also remains the same. At Alpha Gamma Rho this moratorium means no large gathering at the houses. Events such as Mom's weekend cannot be held at the fraternity. Additionally, there cannot be any non-essential guests at the house. Essential guests are those that provide services such as repairs and inspections. While the social moratorium restriction is challenging, the men are dealing with it and are attempting to secure a venue on campus for Mom's weekend.

The Fall GPA for the house was 3.38, 45 men made the dean's list, 52 the house scholarship meal and 7 earned 4.0. In lieu of a Winter Crescent, a Christmas post card was mailed to the alumni. Consequently, it seems appropriate to include a brief recap of the Fall 2020 semester in this article.

Composite pictures and class pictures were taken as usual at the fraternity. ISU played football allowing a limited number of fans in the stands with most fans watching on TV. Some men had jobs, others went home to help with harvest and still others worked for local farmers. The Homecoming celebration was virtual; 27 members were awarded Legacy awards and 4 men received scholarships. The National Convention which was in August and held virtually was recapped at the homecoming celebration. The Eta chapter of AGR won 9 of the 14 awards and there were 2nd and 3rd placings as well as Gold Star Status Scholarships

During CALS (College of Agriculture and Life Sciences) week AGR men participated in the Olympics and brought the trophy back to the house. They also took part in Food on Campus, Hunger Fight, and Bacon Expo. Aggers brought 500 meals to local co-ops with the proceeds going to the Farm Crisis Center. The men also hosted an outdoor pumpkin carving contest accompanied by a meal with Sigma Alpha sorority. A number of men went to Stillwater, Oklahoma for the football game on October 24. Although ISU lost the game, the men reported that they had a good time.

Needless to say this has been a very different year at AGR. However, the men have made the best of it, are having fun and enjoying brotherhood. As this semester continues, members have again – after a 2 month break – settled into the routine of studying, attending classes in person on campus and online at the fraternity. The new members have had plenty of opportunities to bond over shoveling snow sometimes in some pretty cold weather. Taking classes online has made it easier for members to help at home during calving season. However, everyone is anxiously anticipating Spring, warm weather, and the opportunity to be outside.



Diane Pinneke
AGR Housemother Eta Chapter



2021 Executive Team



Nobler Ruler
Cole Eden
Titonka, IA
Agricultural Business
Junior



VNR of Alumni Relations
Gabe Shultz
Memphis, MO
Agricultural Engineering
Sophomore



VNR of Activities
Hunter Crawford
Clarinda, IA
Agricultural Business
Junior



VNR of Finance
Spencer Collins
Adel, IA
Agricultural Studies
Sophomore



VNR of Recruitment
Trentin Moeller
Galva, IA
Agricultural Business
Junior



*VNR of House Operations
and Management*
Joe Westlake
Indianola, IA
Agricultural Systems and
Technology
Sophomore



*VNR of Membership
Development*
Nathan Parchert
Illinois City, IL
Agricultural Business
Junior



VNR of Scholarship
James Chism
Huxley, IA
Agricultural Business
Sophomore



VNR of Planning
Nathan Behrends
Atlantic, IA
Agricultural Studies
Sophomore



Alumni Spotlight

Mike Borel, pin number “1016”, grew up on a farm 3 miles south of Clarion, Iowa. On it, his family raised both livestock and row crops. Coming to Iowa State he was set on an engineering degree but knew coming back to the farm was something we wanted to do. He enjoyed the livestock side of the family farm and with Iowa State offering a strong Animal Science Program, Mike switched his major just before the start of his freshman year.

Before pledging AGR, he experienced rush week and ultimately landed on the decision of Alpha Gamma Rho due to his passion for agriculture. On Valentine’s Day of 1970, he was formally initiated into the chapter with Bob Swanson (Gobbler) putting the pin on his jacket. During his time at 201 Gray, Mike was elected to the AGR Exec Committee as the Scribe/Secretary and was a regular member of the AGR Kitchen Crew.

When asked about memories of the Fraternity and of his college career, Mike mentioned several. These included the Farmers’ Ball, Pink Rose Formal, Wrestling in the rec room, Greek Circle water fights, the AGR Lake, pig roasts, and building VEISHEA Floats. Others included bedding down the Farmhouse fraternity sleeping dorm with straw (having a key to their outside door), winning the Dan Gable Outstanding Intramural wrestler trophy (twice), traveling to Utah to win an NCAA championship, and getting a debut on the ski slopes with John Wood (Woody) and Kerry Lynch (Stick).

Mike’s post-college career began soon after graduation with accepting a job with DuPont. He picked DuPont primarily because an Eta Brother, Rob Dittmer, had joined DuPont a year before, and Roger Bruene, ISU Ag Placement Director, felt he had landed the best job of anyone. Mike would later manage divisions within DuPont including Australasia out of Sydney and Europe, Middle East, and Africa out of Paris. Later in his career, Mike was recruited by Sumitomo Chem to manage their Americas Business. Today, Mike has a consulting practice, Context Network. He works with agribusiness across the value chain and globally with strategy, insights, and management services. Mike has 8 Partners, 108 full time associates and another 250+ subject matter experts.

Throughout Mike’s life, AGR has had a very large impact. As an undergrad, Eta AGR enabled and pushed him to be a leader. As a corporate employee, AGR gave him important and influential contacts, mentors, and customers. And as an entrepreneur, he has had much encouragement from AGR Brothers from various chapters. He turned his passion into action as he was the Western Regional Vice President for 7 years. He still takes pride in wearing the lapel pin showing off his Fraternity to all.

Mike has a family. He has 3 kids who have also had great success in their careers, 6 grandchildren (ages 4-9), and a loving and accomplished wife, Roz (re-married 2019). Mike is also a big hunter. His passion for hunting has translated into a passion for wildlife conservation, specifically wild sheep (Ovis) and wild goats (Capra). Mike is currently leading a multiyear effort to double Desert Bighorn populations in California through strategically placed water catchments.

When asked about what advice he would give to the collegiate chapter, he offered the following. “Take brotherhood seriously. Learn from others. Mentor and teach where you can, work together, play together, CARE, share/be generous. Think win: win or no deal. Never stop learning, striving, improving – complacency will not serve you. The Platinum rule will serve you better as a leader and manager than the Golden Rule. Do YOUR part; encourage and help others do theirs. Take advantage of your membership in Alpha Gamma Rho – deepen friendships, use the learning tools, build the positive reputation and performance of the chapter and the national fraternity, reach out to alumni industry leaders to find jobs, learn, build a network, . . . Find your passion and live it.”



Mike Borel
“1016”



AGR Sweetheart



Our 2021 Alpha Gamma Rho Sweetheart is Macy Evans. Macy is a senior here at Iowa State double majoring in Agriculture and Society and Agricultural Communications. She was born and raised on her family farm in Creston, Iowa where she grew up showing both cattle and pigs. Growing up on the front lines of the industry is

what sparked her passion for agriculture and therefore Iowa State. Along with her passion for agriculture, Macy chose Iowa State because the students on campus were super inviting and enthusiastic and she could tell that they had a desire to learn and be a part of the agriculture industry. During her years at Iowa State, Macy has been a tri-chair for Bacon Expo, a chair for CALS Week, a member of the Student Alumni Leadership Council, a co-editor for the CALS Connections Magazine, and has also traveled to Jamaica through the Fraternity and Sorority Community.

Macy first got affiliated with Alpha Gamma Rho her freshman year. She already knew some of the freshman guys before college, which led to her and her friends hanging out with them. She also shared classes with members which allowed for many group homework and study sessions. Macy mentioned that one of the things she loves about Alpha Gamma Rho is the support that the brothers have. Not only the support that the members have for each other, but their support and love they have for their college. She stated that the men of Alpha Gamma Rho are always willing to lend a helping hand, which is a key aspect that doesn't go unnoticed.

After college, Macy will be working at Cargill in Springdale, Arkansas as a communications associate. She is excited to take on this role because in this position she can voice to the public the great qualities of agriculture. She is also excited to show her passion and desire to be a working member of the agriculture industry.

The logo for Alpha Gamma Rho, featuring the letters 'A', 'G', and 'R' in a stylized, bold font. The letters are yellow with a green outline and a drop shadow effect.

Collegiate Spotlight

For this edition's Crescent, the active member spotlight is brother James Griswald. Brother Griswald hails from Black Earth, Wisconsin and is a senior just finishing up his studies in Agricultural Engineering. James has been involved in many AGR activities during his four years at Iowa State. Some of his favorite leadership experiences come from planning events like Mom's and Dad's weekends. When asked about why he enjoyed these events, James responded "It is very rewarding to plan events that everyone in the house and their families are involved in and help parents get to know their son's friends". James was also the elected "Steward" of the house, so whenever something runs out or any materials are needed, everyone looks towards James.

Outside of the house James has gotten involved in the American Society of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineers (ASABE) at Iowa State. When James joined the organization freshman year, no members of the house were part of the club and currently 5 brothers hold executive position spots. James is presently the Iowa State ASABE chapter president. James expressed that "It has been a unique opportunity to facilitate club interaction, and we have also been able to bring in new speakers that may not have been considered to engage with the club."

AGR is very important to James and he credits a lot of his success to 201 Gray Ave. When asked what AGR means to him, James responded "AGR has pushed me to grow as a student, as a leader, and expanded my connections across the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Not only have I gained many lifelong relationships, but I have gained a network of AGR brothers that span the entire world". James is also a big believer in continuous brotherhood. Even when school was not in session, James always took that opportunity to make memories with his brothers.

When asked if he had any advice to anyone considering AGR or to his fellow brothers, James responded "AGR has provided me much more than a place to live while in college. AGR has become home, and it is sad knowing there are only so many days left before graduation and moving on to a full-time job. Every opportunity to travel for a spring break trip or back home with other brothers should never be skipped as those are some of the memories that I will carry with me forever. I don't remember most of the nights spent studying for my next calculus or thermodynamics exam, but I will never forget driving to Florida with 8 brothers amid a Pandemic for a spring break adventure". Thank you, brother Griswald, for all you do and you will be sincerely missed next fall!



James Griswald



Alumni Spotlight

Terry Sullivan, pin number “1392”, grew up on a row crop/hog farm near Osage and heard about AGR from friends/neighbors that were in the House. He was the Treasurer for the chapter (changed to VNR Finance by the end of the year), and was also involved in Ag Business Club, SAA/Senior Class Council, Varieties, and several other activities as well that he does not recall off hand. Along with a couple of my brothers, I took ground school and flying lessons as free electives and received my pilot license right after graduation. Terry graduated with an Ag Business degree in 1988.

After graduation, he started his career as a grain merchandiser, but in 1991 became an Air Traffic Controller. Terry worked at Oakland Center in the San Francisco Bay area for the first half of his career, where he worked international airspace over most of the northern Pacific Ocean, about 10% of the earth’s surface. (Ironic since I had recently just seen an ocean for the first time). He has been at Portland Tower in Oregon for the last 15 years.

Terry has a wife (Becky) and two teenagers (Ava and John). He says it’s hard to have hobbies while doing shift work and raising kids at the same time, but Oregon is great for outdoor activities like snow skiing, hiking, kayaking, biking, and going to the beach. I hope to have more time for such things after I retire this year due to an age limit set by Congress.

Terry Sullivan
“1392”



FOUNDER'S DAY

April 11, 2021
(held here at 201 Gray Ave.)

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Alumni Board Meeting – 10:30 - Noon

Lunch – Noon - 1:00 pm

Ceremony – 1:00 - 3:00 pm

We look forward to seeing you!

For those who are unable to attend, here is a virtual option through Zoom:

<https://zoom.us/j/92407781924?pwd=RzNVVWFmdXFzR2ZXQzYxUnVXWU9yUT09>

The Meeting ID: 924 0778 1924

Passcode: Eta1914

Legacy Fund Spotlight

Greg Nickerson

Greg Nickerson grew up between St. Ansgar and Osage, Iowa on a diversified farm with three brothers (all initiated into AGR) and two sisters. He chose Iowa State University as his college of choice because of his interest in agriculture and communications and marketing.

“I had some influence from my older brother on my college choice, but frankly, Iowa State was the only game in town for me.” Greg says.

Greg’s career took him into the world of commodity futures trading for two companies, one in Cedar Falls, IA, and the second in Milwaukee, WI, which is where Greg still lives. In 1985 he took a job at Bader Rutter and over the years rose to be its CEO and now currently holding the role of Chairman. Bader Rutter is the largest agri-marketing agency in the country with nearly 300 employees and it serves stellar ag clients such as Corteva/Pioneer, Zoetis, and Case IH.

The connection of brothers on campus and the tight-knit bond among of all them are some of the great memories Greg has of the AGR house.

“The network created locally and nationally has been an invaluable asset in my development as a leader and has been really great for my business as well.” Greg says.

One of Greg’s mentors was Brother Brad Peyton, who unfortunately passed away several years ago. He opened the door to being engaged with the VEISHEA organization. In Greg’s junior year he chaired the event committee, and the leadership and management lessons he learned during that experience was priceless. It also taught Greg that loyalty still matters in a disposable world.

Greg decided early on that giving back was the right thing to do because the AGR house was so good to him. Financial contributions are certainly important, but Greg also feels it is just as important to give your time.

“I am currently serving on the National Board as the Grand Vice President, and I am loving every minute of it. Reengaging with campus life and our talented brothers has really been inspiring, and I encourage all alumni to get involved.” Greg says.

As for advice for underclassmen, Greg says to work on your soft skills. In today’s digitally-driven world, that is becoming a bit of a lost art. Knowing how to interact, engage and influence others “in-person” will differentiate yourself.

“AGR provides many opportunities to hone those skills. Also, don’t take any of your collegiate experience for granted. Stay in touch after you graduate, remain engaged in the fraternity in some capacity.” Greg says.



Greg Nickerson

Recruitment Spotlight

We are currently in full swing of our recruitment season for the New Initiate Class of 2021. As we have been dealing with the obstacles that COVID-19 has given us for almost a year now, we have remained resilient and have adapted to the circumstances given to us in order to recruit a class full of bright new members. Currently we have signed 6 recruits, with the total number of recruits expected to land around 25 new members. Our current list consists of a healthy number of different represented majors such as Agricultural Business, Animal Science, Agricultural Systems Technology, Agronomy, Agricultural Studies, Agricultural Studies, and Forestry. Our list of young men also has a good amount of variety in terms of the states they are from, with some of them being Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota, South Dakota, Missouri, California, Kansas, and Wisconsin. We have been very fortunate to gain more valuable names to our list from alumni recommendations, our scholarship on OneApp, and our interest form.

I was fortunate enough to inherit a well taken care of recruiting class from Cole Eden, our former VNR of Recruitment and current Noble Ruler, as he put in a lot of work last fall by giving several house tours, traveling to their hometowns on home visits, and developing strong relationships with all of the potential new members. Due to the lack of tabling and outreach opportunities due to the pandemic, I have tried to take advantage of giving as many tours and going on as many home visits possible to achieve that personal face to face connections with the PNM's and their families. As of the beginning of March, we have completed over 20 home visits and house tours throughout last fall and this spring. My assistants and myself also attended the virtual AGR Recruitment School in January where we learned about new recruitment tactics and bounced ideas back and forth with others from Alpha Gamma Rho chapters across the country. We have an AGR Recruitment Visit Day planned for Saturday, March 6th where we hope to bring 30 of our potential new members to Ames to interact with the active members, obtain information about being a member of Alpha Gamma Rho, and hear from a couple Alumni give their perspectives on being members of AGR and how it has continued to benefit their personal and professional lives on a daily basis.

Our list of recruits consists of approximately 80 potential new members and I plan on having the NI 21 class filled by the end of April, as May 1st is the University housing contract deadline. I am confident in my team's abilities and the participation of the active members of our chapter to help recruit a varied class of upstanding young men who have the potential to thrive during their time at 201 Gray. Our Alumni play a pivotal role in our recruitment process and I sincerely appreciate all of engagement and recommendations I have received so far. If you have a potential member in mind, that are either current seniors or will be seniors next Fall, please go on our website and fill out our alumni recommendation from under the recruitment tab or contact myself at 712-371-4100 or trentinm@iastate.edu.

Respectfully,



Trentin Moeller "2310"
VNR of Recruitment

Scholarship Report

Hello, my name is Jim Chism and I'm honored to be currently serving in my first semester as Vice Noble Ruler of Scholarship here at Eta Chapter. I'm proud to report that this proud spring the men of Eta Chapter combined efforts to post a cumulative GPA of 3.38, crushing the university average of 3.18 among all undergrads, and placing us 2nd within IFC. This strong semester academically included seven 4.0's posted by brothers, and 47 brothers on Dean's List.

This accomplishment comes as no surprise however, as the hard work among the active chapter was evident throughout Fall 2020. Despite the challenges presented by virtual learning—and Coronavirus as a whole—brothers bonded together and we're able to make the most of our situation and take full advantages of the resources offered here at 201 Gray.

I would like to take this time to thank Alumni for all of their contributions to our academic accomplishment. Many brothers benefitted greatly from the Book Library here at the house sponsored by the Alumni, as well as the free tutoring. Additionally, the academic success hasn't been rewarded solely with a strong GPA, but many brothers have also received financial support via the numerous, and generous, scholarships offered each semester. These are great tools and incentives to continue to boost scholastic success within the active chapter. Thank you.

In addition to maximizing the resources provided by the alumni, brothers have been taking great strides to help each other in the classroom. Take a walk-through Eta Chapter this past semester on any given day and you would've seen the boardroom, computer lab, and even some of the big-man rooms a buzz with brother's watching lectures, assisting each other with homework, or preparing for Exams together. This has been incredible to be a part of, and the driving factor in our continued academic improvement.

Thank you again to the active brothers for their hard work, and to the alumni for their generous support of our academic endeavors. I'd like to close by recognizing the 47 brother's who posted a 3.5 GPA and above to achieve Dean's List:



Congratulations Christian Atkinson, Nathan Behrends, Brayden Beinhart, Jacob Bockman, Andy Boschert, Jack Carter, Jim Chism, Spencer Collins, Devin Devore, Andrew Dornbier, Brock Durlinger, Cole Eden, Landon Foster, Max Halstead, Daniel Hemphill, Jake Hlas, Logan Hoffman, Jacob Honkomp, Matthew Hougland, Connor Hultman, Easton Hultman, Prescott Jeckell, Ian Johnson, Bryce Kafton, Kody Koberg, Bryce Lafrenz, Cole Lauterbach, Kyle Lois, Nathan Manternach, Cody Mead, Nathan Orban, Nathan Parchert, Cale Pellett, Tate Phillips, Hans Riensche, Noah Sletten, Collin Stark, Ben Thompson, Stuart Tiedemann, Blake Webel, Jack Wilson, and Nathan Zumbach.



Fraternally,

James Chism
"2320"





Alpha Gamma Rho

Eta Chapter, Iowa State University

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ΑΓΡ IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

March 21-28: **Greek Week**

April 11: **Founder's Day**

April 17: **Dad's Weekend**

May 7: **End of Semester**

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