



# ΑΓΡ

Eta Chapter Newsletter  
Iowa State University

# THE CRESCENT



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SUMMER 2021

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# Noble Ruler Report

Hello again,

I hope that all of you have had a much better start to 2021 that we found ourselves in last summer at this time. On behalf of the men at Eta Chapter, we hope you all had a safe Spring with a successful planting season and with new life on the farm.

Since my previous crescent article, Eta Chapter has seen many high achievements as we continue to raise the bar set for us by our fantastic alumni. Although some of this information may be repetitive from some of our E-Newsletters, I wanted to recognize some of the outstanding awards and achievements Eta Chapter has brought home lately.

April started off hot with a believed first-ever Greek Week victory for Eta Chapter, made possible with the following results: 1<sup>st</sup> Place Olympics, 1<sup>st</sup> Place Karaoke, 1<sup>st</sup> Place Community Service, 1<sup>st</sup> Place Spirit, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Polar Plunge, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Lip Sync, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Tournaments, and Highest Individual Fundraiser for Special Olympics Iowa (Parker Kleigl, over \$5,000).

We also had an outstanding showing at the annual ISU Sorority & Fraternity Community's Fraternal Awards of Excellence Banquet. While we did not end up winning the President's Cup, we were selected as a Presidential Level Chapter, meaning we are 1 of the 5 top chapters amongst all fraternities and sororities at Iowa State University. We also received a plethora of other awards including the following: Sorority and Fraternity Community Excellence in Academics Award, Sorority and Fraternity Community Excellence in Civic Engagement Award, Sorority and Fraternity Community Excellence in Leadership Award, Sorority and Fraternity Community House Director of the Year (Mom Diane Pinneke), Sorority and Fraternity Community Educational Program of the Year (ISU4U Partnership), Freshman of the Year Finalist (Kody Koberg), Sophomore of the Year Finalist (James Chism), Junior of the Year Finalist (Cale Pellett), Senior of the Year Finalist (Zack Leist), IFC Individual Civic Engagement Member of the Year (Hunter Crawford), IFC Academic Chapter Award, IFC Leadership Chapter Award, IFC Chapter Adviser of the Year (Justin Chesnut).

We ended the year with some additional exciting news as well. Brother Trentin Moeller, our current VNR of Recruitment, rounded out a tremendous class that we are very excited to welcome into our organization this Fall. His new initiate class will consist of 25 young men from all over the United States that were recruited in one of the most difficult recruitment years to date. Trentin did a fantastic job maneuvering through COVID-19 restrictions and limitations that hinged our typical recruitment process, and his work did not go unnoticed as we are one of few chapters at ISU that did not see limited recruitment numbers.

The majority of our members have already started their summer internships or are transitioning into their full-time job opportunities upon graduation this Spring. Due to our reputation on campus, the professional networks our members create and AGR offers, and the efforts our men went through to secure employment opportunities, I am proud to announce that EVERY one of our members has a job opportunity secured for this summer. Whether they are returning to their family farms, working for independent firms, or starting their role within corporate agriculture, we are excited to highlight these individuals' experiences throughout the summer on our social media platforms.

Lastly, I want to congratulate the graduates of 2021. Eta Chapter saw 21 of our members take their last steps through our beloved house as undergraduates. I want to thank each and every one of these members for the contributions and impacts they have made on our chapter. Your leadership and adaptability was unmatched as you joined this organization under a renovation and then saw the last year and a half of your undergraduate experience shocked by a global pandemic. Through it all, each and every one of you left a lasting legacy within our chapter and we are all very excited to see what your futures have in store. As agriculturists, we drive this prosperous country and world, and we know that each of you will continue to improve the agricultural industry as we know it.



The doors to 201 Gray are always welcome to our alumni, as we expect to see many of you with one of the most promising and exciting Cyclone Football seasons upon us this Fall. With that, we hope that all of you continue to stay safe and healthy as we navigate through what is hopefully the end of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Fraternally,  
Cole Eden

# Mom's Report

The last months of the school year were a very busy time at the AGR house. In March, there were modifications to the COVID-19 social moratorium. While some restrictions remained in place, the changes allowed certain events to take place on campus and at AGR.

The first of these events was Mom's weekend. Although the auction had to take place on the ISU campus, the sun was shining and there were smiles on everyone's faces. This event was followed by Spring Showdown – the annual AGR and Block and Bridle cattle show, Greek Week, Founders Day – which was mostly virtual, a very successful Fraternal Awards of Excellent Ceremony, Formal, two Philanthropies with the proceeds going to the American Cancer Society and the Farm Crisis Center, and finally, the Spring Pig Show. All of this took place within six weeks.

Twenty-seven young men graduated during this 2020-2021 year including: Hans Riensche, Sam Peters, Bryce Robinson (graduated last semester), James Griswold, Laramie Boysen, Kaleb Miller, Trey Boyle, David Trumm, Zach Leist, Colin Stark (graduated last semester), Jake Hlas, Grant Kiefer (graduated last semester), Cody Mead (graduated last semester), Landon Foster, Scott Stoll, Brian Lois, Andrew Dornbier (graduates next semester), Jack Carter, Connor Hultman, Jacob Sterle, Ben McClain (going to vet school), Ross Cady, Gus Leonard, Tyler Whited, Matthew Houglund, Cole Lauterbach, and Dayton Brugman.

Graduation was bittersweet, as always. It is great to see young men receive their diploma and move onto the next phase of their lives. However, it is hard to see them leave the AGR house. They are always missed and every Fall it is a little strange and a little empty without the men who filled this fraternity for four years. They are wished the very best and know they are always welcome at 201 Gray.



Diane Pinneke  
AGR Housemother Eta Chapter



# Senior Takeaways



## James Griswold

**Future Plans:** Working for Cargill as an associate engineer in a beef processing plant in Friona, Texas

**Favorite Memory:** Road tripping to Florida for 2020 spring break with a bunch of brothers



## Zack Leist

**Future Plans:** Moving to Sioux Falls, South Dakota where I will be a Developmental Sales Representative with Syngenta Crop Protection

**Favorite Memory:** Sleeping outside on the giant lawn display bed; tailgating and road tripping to ISU football games with brothers; getting up at 6 am for Tip Top; traveling to AGR national leadership conference in Oklahoma City; spring break vacation to Destin, Florida; lake trips up to Okoboji; and living in Ames in the summer with brothers Spencer Cook and Gus Leonard.



## Samuel Peters

**Future Plans:** Complete the Master of Science in Agricultural Economics program at Iowa State University, beginning Fall 2021.

**Favorite Memory:** Road trips to away football games with fellow Cyclones!



## Ross Cady

**Career Plans:** Moving to Northeast Indiana to become an Associate Territory Manager for Corteva Agriscience

**Favorite Memory:** Getting painted Sophomore year for Yell Like Hell, Study abroad trips to Scotland and the United Arab Emirates, and lastly being a Co-Chair for the first time AGR has won Greek Week!



## Jack Carter

**Future Plans:** Manager Trainee with WG Provisions in Jewel, IA

**Favorite Memory:** Tailgating at the haunted forest before football games



## Jake Hlas

**Future Plans:** Cattle Territory Manager at Merck Animal Health in Central Illinois



## Landon Foster

**Career Plan:** UNL Feedyard Management Program, then joining the Marine Corps

**Favorite Memory:** Skip trip



## Jake Sterle

**Future Plans:** Pursuing a concurrent MBA with emphasis on Supply Chain

**Favorite Memory:** Any road trip with the guys from bowl games in Memphis, TN to San Antonio, TX to the Big XII Championship in Arlington, TX



## Connor Hultman

**Future Plans:** Sales Associate for Hanson Seed and Services under Pioneer Hi-Bred

**Favorite Memory:** Going on road trips with the brothers for spring break trips and Cyclone football bowl games

# 2021 Graduating Class



**Hans Riensche**



**David Trumm**



**Andrew Dornbier**



**Sam Peters**



**Colin Stark**



**Zack Leist**



**Bryce Robinson**



**Jake Hlas**



**Ross Cady**



**James Griswold**



**Grant Kiefer**



**Gus Leonard**



**Connor Hultman**



**Cody Mead**



**Tyler Whited**



**Laramie Boysen**



**Landon Foster**



**Matthew Houglund**



**Jack Carter**



**Jacob Sterle**



**Ben McClain**



**Kaleb Miller**



**Scott Stoll**



**Cole Lauterbach**



**Trey Boyle**



**Brian Lois**



**Dayton Brugman**

# Alpha Gamma Rho 2021 Spring Philanthropies

## “Sausage Party”

Held on April 18th at Alpha Gamma Rho

Paired with Delta Tau Delta Fraternity

**Money Raised: \$2794**

Proceeds went towards the American Cancer Society and JDRF

Total Chapter Participation: 34 brothers

Food Served: Eggs and sausages grilled by Alpha Gamma Rho and donuts donated by Delta Tau Delta

Attendees: Almost 300 Greek affiliates and university students!!



## “Wings On Rho”

Held on April 24th at Alpha Gamma Rho

Paired with Sigma Alpha

**Money Raised: \$2600**

Proceeds went towards the Farm Crisis Center

Total Chapter Participation: 29 brothers

Food: fried chicken wings with a variety of sauces

Attendees: Nearly 250 Greek affiliates and university students!!

**Total Donated: \$5,394**



Parker Kliegl



Philanthropy Leaders:  
Brett Baccam



Tate Boysen

# House Operations Report 2021

Hello, my name is Joe Westlake and I currently serve as the VNR of House Operations and Management for 2021. I am going to be a Junior this upcoming semester, studying Agricultural Systems Technology, and will be pursuing a summer internship with Vermeer Corporation in Pella, Iowa. As the brother in charge of the chapter facilities, it is my duty to inform you of current and future house projects. This year, we are in the process of installing new quartz countertops in the formal dining room as the old ones are getting much wear and tear. Over the summer we will be getting the foyer, chapter room, and dining room floor repolished, and a protective coating applied to ensure that we do not damage the floor. We will also be painting the second floor as we continue our program of painting a different floor every summer. Lastly, we are in the works to place an “AGR” stone on the north side of the house to brighten up the front side of the house.



Joe Westlake



## Moms' Weekend 2021

We were able to host our annual Moms' Weekend on Saturday, March 13th. Due to Covid restrictions, we were unable to host the event entirely at the house. Moms first gathered at the house for registration and to eat a delicious Italian lunch. We then transported everyone to Kildee Hall for our live auction. Over 70 moms were in attendance and just under \$12,000 was raised for Mom's Auxiliary. Two scholarships were awarded after lunch. Both seniors, Brothers Landon Foster and Hans Riensche received \$1,000. They were selected based on the essays they each wrote on what “AGR means to me.” Overall, we were delighted to have all the moms in attendance and that we could host the event during these still challenging times. We look forward to next year and having the opportunity to invite the moms back to the house in 2022!



Moms' Weekend Co-Chairs



Tyler Whited

Gabe Shultz



# Scholarship Report

Hello, my name is James Chism and I'm honored to be serving as Vice Noble Ruler of Scholarship here at Eta Chapter. I'm so incredibly proud to reflect on the academic efforts of the men of 201 Gray this past spring. Eta Chapter combined efforts to post a cumulative GPA of 3.47, crushing the university average of 3.19 among all undergrads, and placing us 2nd within IFC by .03. This strong semester academically included five 4.0's posted by brothers, and 47 brothers on the Dean's List.

This accomplishment came as no surprise however, as the hard work among the active chapter was evident throughout Spring 2021. As the university shifted back to more in-person classes, brothers did an excellent job of keeping each other accountable on going to class and taking full advantages of the resources offered here at AGR.

I would like to take this time to thank alumni for all 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.

In addition to all the support listed above, the Alumni Foundation has been funding our 'Scholarship Teams'. Scholarship teams are small groups of brothers drafted at the beginning of the semester by designated captains. These captains then lead the brothers through bi-weekly check-ins, ensuring everyone is staying on track with their academic goals. Finally, a running standing of the team's average GPAs is read off at chapter throughout the semester. At the end of the semester the winning team receives a deduction from their house bill, courtesy of the Alumni. This has been a great way to reward academic achievement and create an environment of friendly competition within the house.

Thank you again to the active brothers for their hard work, and to the alumni for their generous support of our academic endeavors!



James Chism

## Golfing For AGR Scholarships

### Mark your Calendars:

**When:** Friday, September 3rd

**Time:** 12 noon registration starts; 1:00 Shotgun start

**Where:** Center Pointe Golf Course, 601 S Cedar St Boone, IA

**Cost:** \$80 Alumni and Friends; \$50 Actives (18 holes, cart, burger lunch, prizes and scholarship donation)

- 4 person best shot format
- Bring other team members or teams will be assembled the morning of
- All levels of golf experience
- Hole prizes and prizes to winning foursome

For more information or to register contact:

- Kevin Allman at [kevin.allman@kentww.com](mailto:kevin.allman@kentww.com) ph. 712-389-6012 or John Bruene at [jsbruene@icloud.com](mailto:jsbruene@icloud.com) ph. 319-530-1838



Join us for socializing, renewing old friendships and developing new ones, while raising money for AGR scholarships!

# ATP



# Alumni Relations Report

Hello, my name is Gabe Shultz and I am the current VNR of Alumni Relations here at Eta Chapter AGR. I will be a junior this fall semester, studying Agricultural Engineering with a minor in Agronomy. My background includes growing up on a small farming operation near Memphis, MO. Before coming to Iowa State, I had no ties to the Iowa State or Eta Chapter. However, my grandfather was a “Rho”; as they are nicknamed at the University of Missouri. His college stories of the AGR fraternity sparked my interest in becoming part of this great fraternity and brotherhood.

With Covid-19, the Alumni Board and collegiate chapter felt it was necessary for Founders Day to be pushed from its February date to April 9th. As such, the ceremony was not held in a traditional manner due to University and IFC protocols. Nonetheless, we were resilient in our planning, and we were able to hold a ceremony that offered both in-person attendance to our alumni board and active chapter as well as virtual attendance to our vast alumni from across the United States. We were fortunate to have over 140 attendees present. During the ceremony, we were honored to hear from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Dean, Daniel Robison; hand out Legacy Fund Scholarships; hear reports from the collegiate chapter and alumni board; and award three alumni for their service towards Eta Chapter and their involvement in the agriculture industry.

The Alumni Award Winners were as follows:

**25th Year Anniversary Testimonial** – Matt Norman (Pledge Class of 1997)

**50th Year Anniversary Testimonial** – Rod Pierce (Pledge Class of 1971)

**Agricultural Leadership Award** – Colin Hurd (Pledge Class of 2009)

If you would like to nominate someone that you feel deserves to be an Alumni Award winner next year, please contact VNR of Alumni Relations Gabe Shultz at [gshultz@iastate.edu](mailto:gshultz@iastate.edu).

Gabe Shultz



## Alumni Spotlight

Scott Mortimer was originally from Dallas Center, IA where he grew up in a farm family. He came to Iowa State to major in Agricultural Business with a minor in Sales and Marketing. He was very involved in agriculture and wanted to farm, but he decided it would be good if he had a backup plan and that's why he got his business degree. Scott first heard about AGR from friends that were currently in the house, such as Mike McClure. He then pledged in the summer when the VNR of Recruitment at the time, Dan Stockdale, paid a visit to Scott's home. Arriving into the house in 1983, he was given the pin number "1364." Scott was very involved within the house and became the Social Co-Chair and Noble Ruler his junior to senior year. He was also involved on campus by being on the VEISHA Central Committee for three years and being involved with the Student Alumni Association and was a member of the Agricultural Business Club.

One of Scott's favorite memories from college and through Alpha Gamma Rho is getting to know all the members and being a part of such a great organization. He enjoyed making lifelong friendships and continuously meeting members from other years or chapters in his career life as well. Joining Alpha Gamma Rho played such a major role in Scott's life that he said other than marrying his wife and having his daughter, AGR was the best thing to ever happen to him.

After college, Scott worked at Norwest Financial for five years in consumer finance and realized he really missed agriculture. So he took a position at the Meredith Corporation as a sales representative for Successful Farming, working his way to a Publisher in 2006. He now serves as SVP and Group Publisher still in charge of Successful Farming and also the Meredith Premium Publishing division. Scott has been married to his wife Susie for 32 years now and has a 28-year-old daughter, Kelsey. In their free time his family enjoys going to Iowa State football and basketball games as well as golfing and traveling, especially to wine country.

Scott was also recently awarded the ISU Outstanding Ag Business Club Alumni of the Year. His successes have clearly been noticed and his advice towards the active members is to "Seek out ways to be involved both in the house and on campus. You'll gain skills that will serve you well beyond your undergraduate years as you embark on your careers." He also mentioned to stay curious and challenge yourself because life is a constant learning adventure, and to enjoy your time at ISU and with AGR and find ways to stay connected with the guys from the house even after you graduate.



Scott Mortimer



# Alumni Spotlight

Perry Palmer grew up on a 500-acre farm near Keota, in southeast Iowa. Initially, the farm was a traditional hog & cattle/row crop operation but later developed into a large turkey enterprise which then became the core livestock operation.

No one from Perry's family or local community had been in AGR, however, when he went through Rush as an Ag Engineer, it quickly became clear Alpha Gamma Rho was the best choice. Because of his father's prior involvement in FFA at the state level and the Ag Council, his father had always stressed academics and leadership; traits for which Alpha Gamma Rho is known. As a freshman at ISU, Perry was also a State 4-H Officer and knew many of his counterparts in the FFA organization. When he arrived at 201 Gray at the start of Rush Week, Palmer was met by two State FFA Officers from the AGR Rush team. They were smart, persuasive and very accomplished – A reflective of a group he wanted to be part of.

During Perry's freshman year, he was fortunate to head the pledge class which allowed him to get to know his pledge brothers quickly, whether planning for a sorority event or partaking in a 2:00 AM breakfast after cleaning the house. During his sophomore year, Perry served as a Cyclone Aide. Cyclone Aides were representatives selected by the Dean of Students of Office (usually two from each college. They are the University's ambassadors to new students, recruits, and parents). He later became the House's first Summer Rush Chairman, traveling the state full-time recruiting incoming students and, more importantly, talking with their parents. It was a big change because freshman previously were not allowed to pledge until they arrived for their first semester of school.

Palmer graduated in 1973 with a degree in Industrial Administration. After graduation, he went on to receive his CPA and several years later he received his MBA. His professional career started with a firm which now goes by Deloitte. After working with clients in Phoenix and Southern California, he moved to the Bay Area where he became a partner with a growing real estate development company. His company redevelops environmentally impacted properties as new campuses for Bay Area companies. The properties are in built-up urban areas and their redevelopment involves many public forums; therefore trust, relationship building, resourcefulness and consensus are key. These were all traits he refined as Pledge Class President, Rush Chairman and my later years in the House.

When looking back at AGR, Palmer still believes the House sets a high standard for the caliber of its members and the expectations those members have for themselves. As for the Rush team he first met at 201 Gray, they and many that followed shortly thereafter, went on to hold top campus positions whether it be Ag Council, Interfraternity Council or Student Body President. They are today's leaders in Agriculture and the heads of many corporations. Though Perry's career took him outside the ag industry, his principles have remained and hold true to him today.

Perry and his wife, Terry, live in Woodside, CA, a small town south of San Francisco. They have an adult daughter, Lauren, that lives in Los Angeles. Perry is an avid football fan. He enjoys playing tennis and going scuba diving.

His Advice for all collegiate members of Eta AGR is this. "Enjoy your time at 201 Gray, it will go quickly. Take advantage of the opportunities to be involved in as many House Offices or other activities as your schedule will allow. It's a great way to get to know your brothers; they all were selected for special reasons before you became a member. It is said that to be successful you should surround yourself with team members that are smarter than you are. We all know that means people-smart as well as book-smart. At AGR, we have a house full of those team members, more reason to get to know them. I also cannot overemphasize the importance of relationships. After college is completed, it can be a differentiating factor in many settings and open doors in others."



Perry Palmer





## Alpha Gamma Rho

*Eta Chapter, Iowa State University*

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event information and chapter  
updates, please send us your  
email address to

[gshultz@iastate.edu](mailto:gshultz@iastate.edu)

## ΑΓΡ IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

August 23: **Fall Semester Courses Begin**

October 23: **ISU Homecoming**

September 3: **AGR Scholarship Golf Outing**

## Meet the Editors



**Gabe Shultz**  
VNR of Alumni Relations  
[gshultz@iastate.edu](mailto:gshultz@iastate.edu)



**Blake Webel**  
Assistant Alumni Relations  
[bwebel@iastate.edu](mailto:bwebel@iastate.edu)



**Kody Koberg**  
Crescent Editor  
[kmkoberg@iastate.edu](mailto:kmkoberg@iastate.edu)