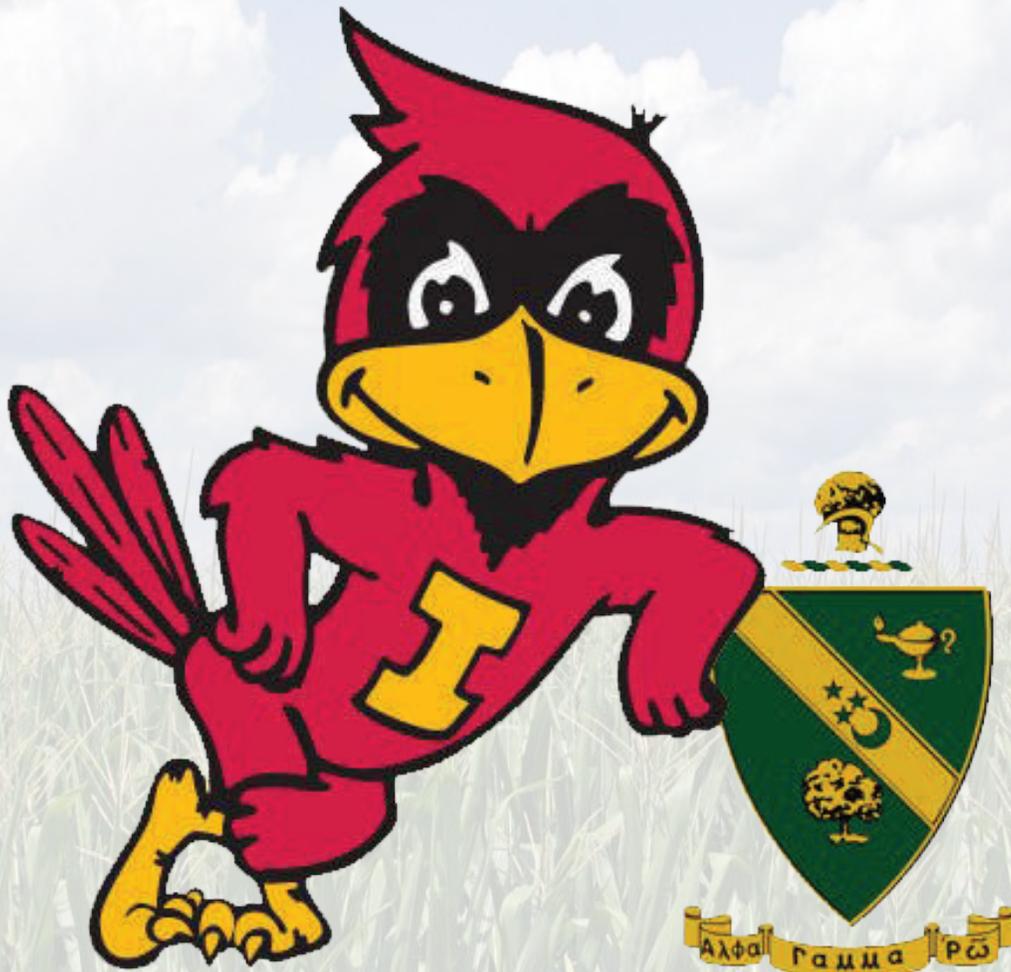




ΑΓΡ

Eta Chapter Newsletter
Iowa State University

THE CRESCENT



WINTER 2023

Noble Ruler Report

Brothers, Alumni, Friends, and Family,

Here we are again, wrapping up another great year at 201 Gray Avenue, and 2022 has been nothing shy of great! It felt like yesterday that I was writing my first Noble Ruler report AGR Crescent. Since then, lots has happened at Eta Chapter, and I want to take a moment to reflect on a few of the highlights this past year.

The first highlight to mention is our continued success through philanthropy. We successfully planned three large philanthropy events this year. We hosted over 1,000 community members at these events and raised over \$9,000 in the process! These were record numbers for the brothers in Eta Chapter. Beyond our philanthropic efforts, we continued to build relationships with those at Iowa State and in the agriculture industry. For the first time since 2019, we were able to bring back our Women's Appreciation Dinner in March and our Faculty Appreciation Dinner in November. These events were a great way for our fraternity to show our thankfulness and appreciation to those who have impacted our chapter. In the process of these events, we were able to highlight our fraternity and continue to build on the valuable connections with everyone in attendance. Beyond the few highlighted events, let's not forget the accolades our chapter was awarded this year! This year we were able to take home two of the most prestigious awards our chapter could. The first was being named the recipient of Iowa State University's Sorority and Fraternity President's Cup, and the second was being awarded the Maynard H. Coe Award at AGR National Convention this summer in Milwaukee! Being named the top sorority and fraternity at Iowa State University and the top AGR in the nation was a huge feat to accomplish in one year!

These community, university, and nationwide activities, and awards wouldn't be accomplished without the bond of brotherhood our men possess within our chapter. Our brotherhood within the fraternity is reaching new levels in sustainable and progressive ways. Our year's success could not have been possible without your support, and we thank you for allowing our chapter to set the standard in so many aspects.

While we remember and cherish all the good times set in 2022, we cannot help but look ahead to the future of our chapter! We are excited to watch the next leaders continue to set records and accomplish unimaginable feats.

To say my term wasn't a whirlwind of memories is an understatement. As I reflect on my time serving Eta Chapter, I cannot help but to thank everyone who helped me along the way. From our Alumni Board to Alumni, to our Chapter Advisors, to our University Faculty, and our National AGR Leadership, thank you all for your continued support and belief in what we do here in our fraternity. Continuing the legacy we hold in the chapter is a challenging task, and it is made possible because of our support along the way. I am excited to watch the chapter continue to find success and prosper for years to come. Thank you again, and I wish you all a Happy New Year!

Signing off,

Nathan Behrends



Nathan Behrends, 2022 Noble Ruler, "2341"

Mom's Report

It is always busy at Alpha Gamma Rho and this past Fall was no exception. However, even with all the ongoing activities the fraternity wanted to host 2 special dinners. The first was a Thanksgiving dinner with Sigma Alpha (SA) sorority. Sigma Alpha is a professional agriculture sorority at Iowa State University. Every year, just before Thanksgiving, the men of Alpha Gamma Rho invite Sigma Alpha women to dinner. This has long been a tradition at 201 Gray, and one enjoyed by both organizations. This year, 55 women joined the house for a turkey dinner with all the trimmings. Many of these women attend classes with the men and are friends as well. This contributed to a lively, pleasant dinner and great conversation.



The second dinner Alpha Gamma Rho hosted was the Faculty Appreciation Dinner. AGR started hosting this dinner several years ago. It was held before Christmas break and the men had decorated the house inside and outside for Christmas. This added to the beauty and specialness of the occasion. Forty-five faculty members including Dean Daniel Robison were able to attend. The fraternity represented by Noble Ruler, Nathan Behrends, took this opportunity to thank these faculty members who provide the education required for a degree in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Once again it was a very enjoyable dinner.



Sincerely,

Diane M. Pinneke



Diane Pinneke MSW
AGR Housemother

AGRP

HOMECOMING RECAP

Iowa State University's Homecoming Week was a little later this year, being October 30th – November 5th this past fall semester. Alpha Gamma Rho men were paired with the women of Delta Delta Delta and the men of Delta Sigma Phi. Our team finished 4th overall in Homecoming, including the 1st place Banner, 1st place in the Treds Tournament, 2nd place in Lawn Display, and 3rd place overall for Tournaments. A huge shoutout to brothers James Chism and Kabe Boysen for all their hard work and dedication, serving as the 2022 AGR Homecoming Co-Chairs. It was a great week celebrating one of Iowa State's greatest traditions and getting to know more members of the Sorority and Fraternity Community!

Thank you to everyone that came to the 2022 AGR Homecoming Ceremony. We had an incredible turnout from AGR Alumni and those that are close to the fraternity. Including active members, there was about 220 people at the AGR Homecoming Ceremony! During the Homecoming Ceremony, we heard from some great speakers. Andy Zehr, CALS Director of Recruitment, Skylar Rinker on behalf of Mike Gaul, CALS Career Services Director, Jim Borel with the AGR National Board of Directors, and an update from our new advisors: BJ Brugman and Justin Van Wert.



HOMECOMING RECAP



Thank you to all our amazing AGR Scholarship and Legacy Fund Donors; we are truly grateful for your continued support! Eta Chapter cannot begin to express the appreciation we have for all you do. Here is the list of Scholarship and Legacy Fund Award recipients:

Scholarship Award:	Recipient:
Rastetter Most Improved GPA	Evan Bixby
Rastetter Leadership	Andrew Boschert
Rastetter Entrepreneurial	Evan Bixby
Rastetter Entrepreneurial	Lex Kassel
Rastetter Entrepreneurial	James Chism
Class of 76-82 Memorial: Dave Schaefer '76	Ethan Clewell
Class of 76-82 Memorial: Brad Peyton '76	Evan Bixby
Class of 76-82 Memorial: Jim Stark '76	Brayden Beinhart
Class of 76-82 Memorial: Duane Streit '76	Wyatt Bailey
Class of 76-82 Memorial: Al Lubben '76	Lex Kassel
Class of 76-82 Memorial: Phil Core '77	Matt Brinkman
Class of 76-82 Memorial: Mell Taets '77	Spencer Collins
Class of 76-82 Memorial: Tim Krumm '77	Nathan Behrends
Class of 76-82 Memorial: Dan Radig '82	Andrew Boschert
Bonner International Travel	Jacob Honkomp
Bonner International Travel	Kody Koberg
Andy Albright Memorial Scholarship	Hunter Field

Legacy Fund Donor:	Recipient:
Bill Latham Family	Noah Sletten
Bill Latham Family	Charley Zylstra
Bill Latham Family	Isaac Wiley
Bill Latham Family	Nathan Orban
Bill Latham Family	Jacob Honkomp
Bill Latham Family	Jacob Bockman
John and Sandra Bonner	Kody Koberg
John and Sandra Bonner	Spencer Collins
John and Sandra Bonner	Brayden Beinhart
John and Sandra Bonner	Jacob Nelson
John and Sandra Bonner	Lex Kassel
John and Sandra Bonner	Bryce Jermier
John and Sandra Bonner	Nathan Manternach
Tim and Vicki Heiller	Ian Latham
Tim and Vicki Heiller	Jack Wilson
Tim and Vicki Heiller	Gabe Shultz
Roger and Sally Stutsman	Bryce Lafrenz
Roger and Sally Stutsman	Jake Scherer
Lynne Shoultz	James Chism
Steven Barwick	Joe Westlake
General Fund	Ian Johnson
General Fund	Nathan Behrends
General Fund	Andrew Boschert
General Fund	Hunter Field
General Fund	Prescott Jeckel

2023 Founder's Day Details



Recruitment Notice



Hello everyone! My name is Cole Bowden and I have been recently elected as the new VNR of Recruitment for Alpha Gamma Rho in 2023. I am looking forward to this year of recruitment and am asking for help to find all potential new members. If you or someone you know of is interested in learning more about Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity, please feel free to contact me at 319-327-2316 or cbowden@iastate.edu

Alumni Recommendation Form Link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSci9zA3Y3wT9eZyvvzT3TkHhY1oCNLiokk_NL_s0cuMaLTxA/viewform

AGR Sweetheart

Our 2022 Alpha Gamma Rho Sweetheart is Allyson Beninga. Allyson is a senior at Iowa State University double majoring in Animal Science and Agriculture Communications. Upon graduation, Allyson plans to pursue a degree in the livestock sales and marketing industry. Allyson hopes to find practical, on-farm, operation solutions for family farmers and support the industry that has given her so much.

Allyson grew up on a beef feedlot and row crop operation in Inwood, IA, and has one brother and one sister. Allyson attributed her start and interest in agriculture to her time showing cattle at a state and national level.

Allyson chose to attend Iowa State University because “ISU provided the best opportunity for me to study agriculture. The university has given me so many chances to challenge myself and grow. My time here has truly been invaluable, and I will be forever grateful I choose my adventure here,” said Beninga.

While at Iowa State University, Allyson has been involved in many things within the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and beyond. Allyson is a member, and actively involved in the Iowa State University Block & Bridle organization. She has also been involved in Iowa State’s Bacon Expo event. Allyson is a Hixson Scholar, which is offered to one incoming ISU student from each county in Iowa. Now, Allyson is a Hixson Peer Mentor, helping the next class of Hixson Scholars transition to college and set them up for success through the Hixson program.



Spencer Collins and Allyson Beninga

Ms. Beninga is a member of our sister sorority, Sigma Alpha here at Iowa State University. Allyson was exposed to Sigma Alpha from her older sister. Allyson stated, “My sister invited me to recruitment, and I immediately knew I had found a home away from home with Sigma Alpha. This organization served as a place to grow professionally and socially throughout my collegiate career.” She has served on the executive team as the Publicity Officer. Additionally, she has been actively involved on both the apparel and Mr. CALS event committees.

Allyson has been able to work closely with members of Alpha Gamma Rho through her involvement in the Block & Bridle cattle show, the Cyclone Classic. The Cyclone Classic is put on in conjunction with the AGR Spring Showdown Cattle Show. In 2022, Allyson was one of the Cyclone Classic Tri-Chairs and worked with the AGR Tri-Chairs to put on a successful event.

Allyson mentioned, “Being selected as AGR Sweetheart is special to me because of all my connections and memories with the men at 201 Gray. I have known some of the AGR guys since before we enrolled at Iowa State, and I know I have a community of friends for the rest of my life. I am confident these friends are a support system to call on whenever I need them. I am very honored and humbled to be selected as AGR Sweetheart.”

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

Fall Philanthropy Efforts

One of the core values of Iowa State's Fraternity and Sorority Community is civic engagement, and one of the things that Alpha Gamma Rho – Eta Chapter has been very proud of the past few years has been our civic engagement work and being able to help the community around us. AGR has been able to expand on our philanthropic efforts, volunteering, and helping those around us whenever anyone may need it.

“Agger Fries” has been a longstanding tradition, and something that many people associate with Alpha Gamma Rho at Iowa State. This year, the Agger Fries philanthropy was nothing short of a success! Our philanthropy chairs: Tate Boysen, Charley Zylstra, and Jack Chism put on one heck of an event that led to the highest attended philanthropy AGR has put on in recent years. For Agger Fries, we had 723 people come and eat cheese curds, fried Oreos, fried pickles, and of course, French fries. New this year, we had live music for our guests to enjoy as they attended the event. We are happy to announce that we were able to donate \$4,000 to Farm Rescue, a non-profit organization that farmers and ranchers in the United States can turn to when they need help.



Our second philanthropy of the fall semester was started a few years ago by the Noble Ruler, Connor Hultman, called, “Aggers Helping Farmers.” During the harvest season, we package meals, or grill on-site, and deliver lunches to local co-ops and ethanol plants for those that are delivering grain. It is such a great way to give back to those that are actively in the agriculture industry, and those that are very busy during the harvest season! All proceeds from “Aggers Helping Farmers” went to the National Farm Crisis Center, which aims to combat mental health issues across the agricultural industry. Through an online fundraiser, we were able to donate \$2,440 to the National Farm Crisis Center!

We were able to get back into the classroom at King and Moulton Elementary schools for our ISU 4U partnership. AGR represents the ISU College of Agriculture & Life Sciences to teach agriculture related topics to students that are from urban areas. AGR went to teach the class four times this fall semester discussing everything from rainforest wildlife to grain to where food comes from and farm animal education with the students.

During both 2021 and 2022 Christmas seasons, AGR has allotted money from each of our members to “Adopt A Family” for the Christmas season. This year, we were able to help a family in need from Des Moines, IA. We were able to get Christmas gifts for their whole family. This is one of our favorite things that we can do to give back and help those that are in need.

Respectfully submitted,



Roy Carter
Civic Engagement
Chair





Alumni Memorial Scholarships

All AGR Alumni Memorial Scholarship recipients received a \$500 scholarship in honor and memorial of these AGR brothers that passed away too soon.



Brother David Schaefer, “1171” grew up on the family farm north of Meyer, IA in Mitchell County. He enrolled at Iowa State University in the fall of 1974, majoring in Animal Science. Dave pledged Alpha Gamma Rho in 1975, where he created lifelong relationships with his fellow brothers. Dave enjoyed traveling the world, sailing, golfing, watching the Green Bay Packers, and the ISU Cyclones. Dave spent 22 years of his career working for Wells Fargo in Minneapolis, MN. He was a great storyteller and a man of faith.



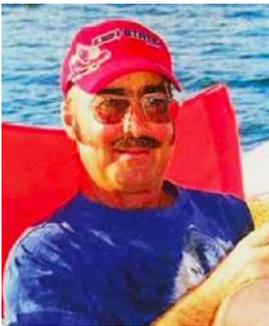
Brother Brad Peyton, “1162” was born in Cedar Rapids, IA, and grew up near Troy Mills, IA. He graduated from Iowa State with a degree in Farm Operations in 1979. During his college experience, Brad served as General Co-Chair on the VEISHEA Central Committee and helped establish Eta Chapter’s “Tradition of Leadership.” Brad went on to attend the University of Iowa Law School. He practiced law for nine years, started various successful business ventures, and was a phenomenal example of a great community member.



Brother Jim Stark, “1182” was initiated into Alpha Gamma Rho in 1976 and was an Animal Science major. In 1988, brother Stark continued his technical education at Indian Hills Community College, where he earned an Associates Degree in Laser and Electro-Optics Technology. Jim then worked for Spectra-Physics in Mountain View, CA and SMR, Inc., in Santa Clara, CA. In 1990, he moved to Plymouth, MI where he worked as a Laser Technical Engineer, for the Rofin-Sinar company. In his spare time, Jim enjoyed hunting, fishing, following college sports, music, and NASCAR Racing. Brother Stark always had a great attitude, and he cherished his time in AGR.



Brother Duane "Dewey" Streit, "1170" was raised on a livestock and crop farm near Osage, IA. After two years of undergraduate study, he was admitted into Iowa State University's College of Veterinary Medicine, and he worked Fairmont, MN, and Carroll, IA, after graduation as a large animal veterinarian. Duane married Beth Fay in 1992 and raised two sons, John and Nicholas, in Carroll. He formed lifelong friends and relationships through AGR, and he fondly remembered his time in Eta Chapter.



Brother Alan "Al" Lubben, "1166" joined the AGR house in the fall of 1975, with a major in Farm Operations. Upon graduation, he came back to the family farm with his brother and father. Alan later became a painter and sent both his daughters to Iowa State University. Al was inducted into the Jones County Hall of Fame twice for his involvement in the community. Alpha Gamma Rho attributed to improving Al's passion, leadership, and inspiring service to his community.



Brother Phil Core, "1192" from Pleasantville, IA, was an active member of the AGR NI Class of 1977 during his time as an Animal Science major at ISU. One of his favorite AGR memories was his time as the summer recruitment chair during his sophomore year. Following graduation, he founded Core Farms, a respected Maine-Anjou seedstock and show cattle operation. Phil loved his time in Eta Chapter, and he greatly valued the friendships and connections he made at 201 Gray Ave.



Brother Mell Taets, “1193” graduated from Osage High School in 1976 and from Iowa State in 1980. He was an active member of AGR, where he developed lifelong business and personal relationships. After college, Mell worked for banking organizations in Minneapolis, Des Moines, Cedar Rapids, Sioux City, and Grand Junction. He was later one of the original founders of Timberline Bank, where he worked until his passing.



Brother Tim Krumm, “1189” was born and grew up on a family farm outside of Boone, IA, where he learned discipline, leadership, and hard work. He was a member of the AGR NI Class of 1977, and it was said that he had the best kept up car in the chapter during his time at AGR. Upon graduating in 1980, Tim worked for Archer-Daniels and the Merchant’s Exchange before starting his own business, Ingredient Exchange Corporation.



Brother Dan Radig, “1317” was born and grew up on his family’s Century Farm near Lone Rock, IA with his brother, Tim, and parents, Gerald and Ann. He loved his years in AGR at ISU, where he was involved in many activities (including being Cy the mascot for many games), and he met his future wife Diana across the street at Delta Delta Delta sorority. After college, Dan moved to the Chicago area, where he worked with the Chicago Mercantile Exchange and, later, IBP. Even after his passing, Dan’s AGR brothers showed their devotion by serving as his pallbearers.

Undergraduate Member Spotlight

This publication's undergraduate member spotlight is brother Lex Kassel. Lex is currently a sophomore, majoring in Agricultural Business. Originally from Emmetsburg, Iowa, Lex has quickly taken the opportunities that Alpha Gamma Rho and ISU have presented to him. Lex served as an Assistant VNR of Membership Development, enjoyed helping at the AGR Spring Showdown cattle show, and has recently been elected to lead the fraternity in the next year as the VNR of Membership Development.

Outside of Alpha Gamma Rho, Lex is an executive team member for ISU's Student Alumni Leadership Council (SALC), an Agricultural Business peer mentor, and is a committee member for ISU Dance Marathon. Dance Marathon is the largest student-run philanthropic organization at ISU that raises funds and awareness for Children's Miracle Network Hospitals. Lex's favorite AGR memory came from the 2021 Cheez-It Bowl Game in Orlando, FL where Lex and seven other NI class brothers met up with other ISU AGR brothers and had a great time enjoying the ISU bowl game.

With his free time, Lex enjoys hunting geese, ducks, whitetail deer, ice fishing, and reading. He has a passion for woodworking and fixing things around the farm.

The future is bright for brother Kassel as he has started to slowly grow his own farming business. Lex grew up farming with his father in Emmetsburg, and recently received a scholarship at the AGR Homecoming Ceremony to help with his entrepreneurial goals of growing the family farm after he takes over. Lex stated, "With starting my own farming business, I have quickly realized and have had the opportunity to see first-hand all the hard work, dedication, and moving parts that goes into a farming operation today. It is more than the work that is done in the fields. Work in the office, having meetings, accounting, management, and keeping an eye open for other opportunities are just as important."

Next summer, Lex has accepted a position with Syngenta as a GHX Specialist, working on the Golden Harvest team.

Respectfully written,



Lex Kassel "2386"



Dawson Brader "2324"



VNR of Alumni Relations Report

To our AGR Alumni, Friends, and Family,

As we begin to close out the 2022 year, I wanted to take a moment and reflect on my term and highlight some of the things that made this fall special. I want to thank each and every one of you that I have been able to work with, interact with, and serve as the bridge between the undergraduate chapter and our alumni base. Serving as the VNR of Alumni Relations for Alpha Gamma Rho truly was the most rewarding experience throughout my collegiate career.

Alumni Relations activities took off shortly after the start of the semester as we had the “Golfing for AGR Scholarships” golf outing on September 2nd, 2022. This was a great event that had an excellent turnout of over 20 teams that came to play golf, connect, and raise money for scholarships that are given out to the current AGR chapter. That evening, we headed to Joe Kerns’ shop in Boone, IA for the NI/ Alumni Steak Fry. We had a nice evening as the AGR Grill Team prepared steak sandwiches for 15 AGR Alumni and 28 New Initiates to network and meet each other. I want to thank Joe Kerns, Tom Brincks, Kevin Allman, and John Bruene for their help and involvement in a successful day of current AGR members and AGR Alumni connecting and spending time together.

After a few years of not having the AGR Alumni Dad program, I am happy to say that we were able to successfully bring back the program. The AGR Alumni Dad program is a unique concept that was started with the goal of setting up the New Initiate class coming into college, and the fraternity, with an AGR Alumni that can help guide them, be another resource, connect with some of the alumni, and add to the new members’ network. This year we had 14 alumni that volunteered to be a part of the Alumni Dad program that were able to get to know their “NI Sons,” offer resume, cover letter, and career fair feedback, and stay connected throughout the first semester for the new members. Thank you to those that volunteered to be NI Dad’s, you all made bringing back the program an easy transition!

Lastly, we unveiled the “AGR Legacy Fund Recognition Project” at the Homecoming Ceremony this past November. This is showcased in the foyer area with videos of Named Donors of the AGR Legacy Fund and gives credit to all those that donate to the Legacy Fund. I cannot say thank you enough to those in the videos and to everyone who helped my team & I pull this off!

Although my time at Iowa State University is coming to an early end, Alpha Gamma Rho was hands down, the best decision that I have ever made. The network that I have been able to build because of Alpha Gamma Rho connections has been remarkable, and I know that will only increase over time. Do not hesitate to reach out to me if you ever need anything, and I look forward to staying connected to many AGR Alumni in the future. You can reach out to me at andrewboschert2339@gmail.com

You can reach out to the next VNR of Alumni Relations, Bryce Jermier, at jermier9@iastate.edu



Andrew Boschert “2339”



Lost Brothers

Calling all Eta Alumni

We are needing your help in finding the contact information for the brothers listed below. If you know any of the listed brothers and their whereabouts, please share with us any information you have or have them get in contact with us. Thanks in advance!

Dean A. Danilson

Benjamin D. Sorensen

Jared R. Elder

Jeremy Maass

Lars W. Palmer

Health L. Brock

Roger A. Kleese

Nathan J. Meier

Jason D. Schneider

Steve Merle Hanson

ΑΓΡ IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES>>>

January 17th – Start of Spring Semester

February 11th – AGR Founder's Day

**March 26th -
April 2nd** – ISU Greek Week

Connect with your brothers on our new
social-networking platform.

www.isuagr.360alumni.com

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Alpha Gamma Rho

Eta Chapter, Iowa State University

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Ames, Iowa 50014

Please update your email with Eta Chapter AGR! If you haven't been receiving emails from us containing important event information and chapter updates, please send us your email address to jermier9@iastate.edu

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