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Eta Chapter Newsletter
Iowa State University

THE CRESCENT



— SPRING 2023 —

Noble Ruler Report

Eta Chapter would like to wish everyone reading a happy spring and a great jumpstart in 2023! I hope this letter finds each one of you in great spirits as this spring has been busy for everyone involved. First, I would like to introduce myself. My name is Ian Johnson, a Junior studying Animal Science and International Agriculture from Marysville, Ohio. This year, I have the privilege of being Eta Chapter's Noble Ruler. This experience is one that I am beyond grateful for and am honored to be chosen to serve active members and alumni of Eta Chapter. It is my pleasure to lead the 80 current active members this spring, next to 8 other elite executive team members serving those related to 201 Gray.

Since the ball dropped in Times Square, our chapter has been nothing but busy planning for a jam-packed semester. We hit the ground running upon arrival in Ames and haven't looked back since! To get the year started, our executive team and housemother Diane Pinneke were able to travel to Kansas City, MO to attend the National AGR Top Leader's Institute. While there, we were able to collaborate with other AGR chapters and share with them how we do things, as well as learn how they do things themselves and bring some unique ideas back to Ames, both to create new tradition and built off of the long-standing tradition we have here. The following weekend, 16 New Initiates were also able to travel to Kansas City, MO to attend the National AGR Leadership Seminar where they were able to capture great insight to leadership as individuals and develop a plan for their 4-year tenure at 201 Gray.

Eta chapter continued to be busy throughout the semester. On February 11th, Bryce Jermier and our Alumni Relations team were able to conduct an excellent Founder's Day along with our great Alumni Board. The luncheon and ceremony were one of the best I have witnessed, and it made a great day to celebrate the last year of success for Eta Chapter. Although our Men's Basketball team wasn't able to walk away with a victory that day, we happily highlighted 4 well-deserving award winners including Sig Cornelius, Mike Taylor, Scott Mortimer, and Dan Johnson. I would like to personally thank each of you who attended and care so much for our chapter. The active chapter is so grateful for all your generous support and participation in helping sustain the success of our chapter year after year. Alumni engagement is one of the things that makes Eta Chapter so special to be a part of.

One last highlight I would like to make of what we have already accomplished is our most recent recruitment weekend! On February 18th, Cole Bowden and our Recruitment team were able to welcome over 20 PNMs to the house where we had a social hour, lunch, a breakout session with their interested majors, and a few hours at State gym playing basketball! We also sent members of the recruitment team to Iowa Beef Expo the same weekend to connect with

members of that interest as well. It was a great event with PNMs from all over the US, proving once again that Eta Chapter is prevalent on a national level. The recruitment team has already done an exceptional job preparing the NI class of 2024 and is looking forward to finishing up another set of high-caliber men that will bring great value to Eta Chapter.

Throughout the rest of the semester, Eta Chapter will remain just as busy and continue working extra hours to ensure that anything that has our name attached to it is a great event for ourselves and others. On the horizon, our annual AGR Spring Cattle Showdown will take place at the Hansen Center from March 17th to March 19th. This year's tri-chairs include Kyle Lois, Kamden Moffitt, and Brian Graves. These men have worked diligently to ensure another year of a successful showdown. Greek Week is also right around the corner. This year, have been paired with the lovely women of Alpha Omicron Pi and the men of Delta Chi. We are thrilled to be with them and look forward to what we can accomplish. Greek Week is March 26th through April 2nd. We will also continue the 'Wings on Rho' Philanthropy on April 18th where we will pair with the ladies of Sigma Alpha in raising money for SHOP (Students Helping Our Peers) which is an on-campus food pantry that just started this last year! The last event I would like to highlight is the AGR Spring Spectacular which is a jackpot pig show taking place April 22nd and 23rd! Blake Webel and Daniel Hemphill are excited to showcase their preparation as they have been working overtime to ensure a great event!

While that is not all that Eta Chapter is up to, you can find the active's participating in any activity they can get their hands on including club activities, service hours, and taking every advantage they can of having cyclone spirit. I would like to thank all of you again for your continued support and dedication of Alpha Gamma Rho – Eta Chapter. Our alumni engagement and support are truly incomparable and means so much to us as an active chapter. Without many of our great alumni, we actives would not have all the opportunities we have for personal growth and the resources we have to be successful. We would love to welcome you to 201 Gray again if you are ever in the area and check in on what we are up to!



Feel free to reach out to myself or Bryce Jermier and we would be more than happy to show you around or have you join us for dinner!

Fraternally,

Ian Johnson "2357"

Mom's Report

As usual Iowa State resumed classes in January following Christmas break. What was not usual was the pipe in the Fire Sprinkler System that froze and broke between the 2nd and 3rd floor on the NW side of the house. This happened on Christmas day, so of course no one was here. The Ames Fire Department came to the house and shut off the water. Unfortunately, there was damage to walls, floors, and ceilings in that part of the house. Alumni Carl Hansen facilitated the drying out of damaged area, the repair and replacement of walls, ceilings and floors. He worked with Service Master, Story County Construction and Carpet One. It took a while but the damage has been repaired and the house looks really good again. That same weekend there were several other houses in the Greek Community and homes in the Ames area that also had frozen pipes.

While the repairs were in process 201 Gray continued pretty much as usual. The new executive team assumed their leadership positions in the house, men attended classes, studied, participated in clubs and committees, and went to basketball games. Members also attended leadership and recruitment trainings in Kansas City, and Lip Sync practice at the fraternity was held 3 nights a week.

Cole Bowden, VNR of Recruitment and several members of his recruitment team attended recruitment school in Kansas City the weekend of January 20. The weekend of January 27 the executive team, along with this housemother, attended executive leadership training in Kansas City. The next weekend six Freshman attended leadership training in Kansas City.

On January 25th 47 men who earned a 3.45 or better, for the fall semester, were eligible to go to dinner at Hickory Park, paid for by the fraternity. Dinner was brought back to the house for those who were unable to attend. Additionally, the 41 members who made the Dean's list were eligible for a prime rib dinner with all the trimmings at the AGR house on February 8. There were late plates for the brothers unable to be at the actual dinner.

Founder's Day celebration was held on February 11, 2023. This event was attended by both alumni and active members of AGR. The day included meetings, lunch, presentations of awards, testimonials, the awarding of scholarships, and of course storytelling and remembrances of days gone by at AGR. It is always a pleasure to have alumni join us at the fraternity for the day.

The following weekend, February 18-19 was recruitment weekend. Eighteen potential members were able to attend. Due to state basketball, state wrestling, and beef expo some interested young men were unable to be in Ames. Members of AGR went to Des Moines to talk with these young men at their events.

March 4th was Mom' Weekend. As usual it was well attended, fun, and a great success. The generosity of AGR Moms past and present is responsible for the extra touches that make 201 Gray a warm, welcoming and pleasant college home.

Diane M. Pinneke



Diane Pinneke MSW
AGR Housemother



Alumni Board President Report

Greetings,

My name is Skyler Rinker, and I am an assistant teaching professor in the Department of Agricultural Education and Studies Iowa State University and recently served as your Eta Chapter Alumni Board president in 2022. I reside southwest of Ogden, Iowa on our family farm with my wife Carly (ISU Chi-Omega) and our two young children Harvey and Perry. I am fortunate to have been a 3rd generation active member of Eta Chapter from 2009 – 2013 while studying at Iowa State University.

As I reflect on my role as the Eta Chapter Alumni Board president in 2022, I am drawn to the fact of the obstacles this group of young men have successfully overcome the last couple of years. I think back to the challenges that COVID 19 brought to the house and specifically how well the active leadership navigated those challenges while continuing to move forward in a positive direction. We are looking at a new generation of students, who experienced unprecedented times through secondary and post-secondary academics. Needs of students have changed and I believe the ETA active chapter has done a great job of adapting to this “new way of living and learning.”

Hard work, leadership, communication, problem solving, and commitment are just a few of the words that come to mind when describing the active chapter of Alpha Gamma Rho. The motto of Alpha Gamma Rho is “To make better men, and through them a broader and better agriculture.” As an alumni board, our role is not to direct and tell, but to work side-by-side with the actives as they manage and operate this house as well while challenging them to strive to become better men. I can say with confidence, from my lens, that this active chapter continues to uphold the motto of AGR by putting a continuing focus on academics, campus involvement, philanthropy, career development, and networking. Your house is in good hands.

Graduates of AGR are prepared to lead in an everchanging agricultural industry while pursuing diverse career paths from farm operating and management, food sciences, agribusiness, agronomy, environmental sciences, and many more. When I am presented the opportunity to meet with the house executive teams and other active members, I am always impressed with their professionalism, dedication to the success of their peers and commitment to engage with the Iowa State community.

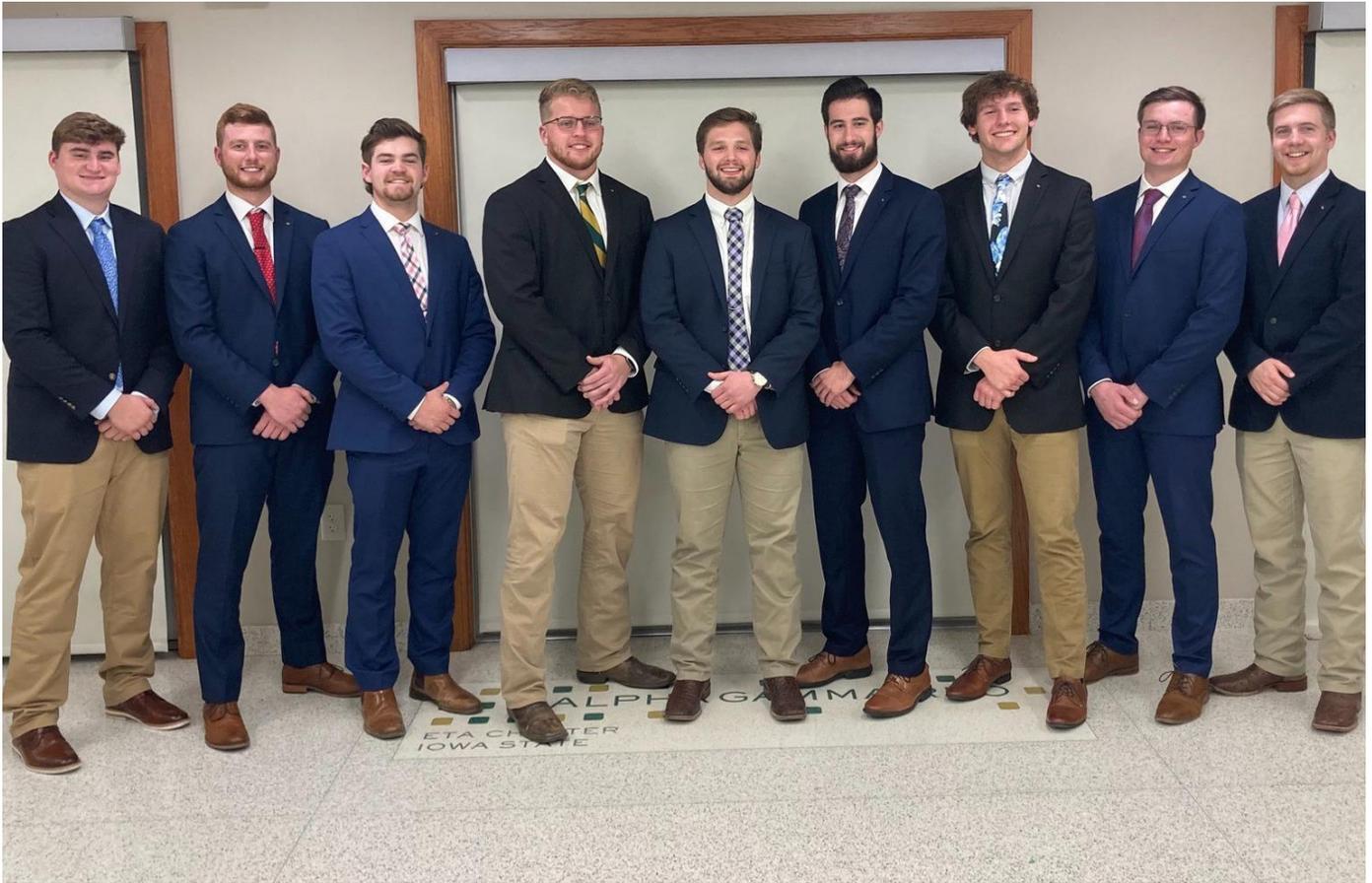
Everything said, this house and its members would not exist if it were not for the support of the alumni of Eta Chapter. Support can be defined in many ways such as financial giving, funding of scholarships, maintaining the brotherhood and relationships, service to the house, and others. All these things are very important to the viability of Eta chapter and with that, I want to send a sincere Thank You to all of the Eta alumni and your families. I hope you all have a safe and pleasant spring!

Fraternally,



Skyler P. Rinker

2023 AGR Executive Team



Pictured from left to right; Mitch Wirth, Bryce Jermier, Lex Kassel, Noah Sletten, Ian Johnson, Cole Bowden, Roy Carter, Jake Scherer, Wyatt Bailey

Noble Ruler

Ian Johnson; Junior in Animal Science from Maryville, Ohio

VNR of Activities

Noah Sletten; Junior in Agricultural Business from Osage, Iowa

VNR of Recruitment

Cole Bowden; Sophomore in Agronomy from Winthrop, Iowa

VNR of Membership Development

Lex Kassel; Sophomore in Agricultural Business from Emmetsburg, Iowa

VNR of Planning

Roy Carter; Sophomore in Agricultural Business from Washington, Iowa

VNR of Alumni Relations

Bryce Jermier; Junior in Agricultural Business from Grimes, Iowa

VNR of Finance

Jake Scherer; Sophomore in Agricultural Engineering from Decatur, Illinois

VNR of House Operations and Management

Mitch Wirth; Sophomore in Agricultural Studies from Geneseo, Illinois

VNR of Scholarship

Wyatt Bailey; Junior in Agronomy and Seed Science from Mitchellville, Iowa

Active Spotlight



Wyatt Bailey "2373"

Wyatt is a Junior majoring in Agronomy and Seed Science from Mitchellville, Iowa. He has been a valued member of the Eta chapter since 2021. Since joining, Wyatt has accomplished incredible things and represented our chapter extremely well. In the house, Wyatt currently serves as the VNR of scholarship and has spent time as assistant of scholarship, CALS representative, and banner chair. Wyatt also holds the president's position for Agronomy Club, after serving a prior term as its treasurer.

Wyatt grew up on a small livestock farm, where his family had around 15 head of cattle as well as a wide variety of other animals such as ducks, chickens, peacocks, and donkeys. Wyatt described it as a "little rural Iowan zoo!" From a young age, he knew he had a passion for Agronomy, which eventually led him to study at Iowa State.

One of Wyatt's favorite Eta chapter memories was travelling to Kansas City just recently along with the rest of the executive team. He says the trip made him closer with the executive team as a whole and that it was cool to get to know the leaders of other chapters. AGR has brought Wyatt lifelong brotherhood, "I've met some of my greatest friends I've ever had here at Eta through our involvement, and I'm certain we will keep in contact throughout the rest of our lives."

Wyatt has completed an internship every summer since coming to Iowa State. His first was a crop scouting internship with KEY Cooperative, followed by an internship with Beck's as a corn breeding intern this past summer. This summer, Wyatt will be working with Corteva Agriscience doing pesticide research. Post undergrad, he plans to attend graduate school at Iowa State in the department of Agronomy.

Wyatt has been a member of the Iowa State University Crops Judging Team since the Spring of 2021, and has now competed in nearly a dozen regional and national contests. In the Fall of 2021, he placed first high individual in the American Royal Crops Contest and the National Collegiate Crops Contest. More recently, he competed in the Iowa State Regional Crops Contest, where he placed first in all four categories of the contest - ultimately winning the contest individually and as a team. He says, "My experiences on the crops team have allowed me to apply my knowledge of agronomy in real-world applications and have made me a better student and future agronomist." What an incredible experience and achievement!



Eta is proud to be represented by you, and the chapter can't wait to see what you accomplish next. Keep on doing great things, Wyatt!

ATP

NI Spotlight



Kirby Cook "2401"

For our NI 22 spotlight this spring we have chosen Kirby Cook of Winthrop, Iowa. Kirby is a freshman here at Iowa State and is majoring in Agricultural Studies. Growing up he was involved in numerous activities at school and always had a sense of where he was headed for college. There was no other option than Iowa State and had the hopes of joining Eta chapter.

Within ETA Kirby is fairly involved including being the Assistant VNR of Recruitment, where he helps our VNR of Recruitment and the other assistance in recruiting the next NI class. He is also Student Activities Chair, in which he notifies the chapter on club activities, such as meetings or officer applications. He enjoys this position it allows him to stay up to date with all the clubs and relay that info back. Kirby is also the Vice President of his class, as he is well respected and determined leader.

Kirby has enjoyed his time here as since getting here he has made his twenty-six best friends that will be at his wedding and be there for him if he would need help. He says, "The brotherhood and friendship are indescribable." But also, with everyone sharing the same values and ideas surrounded around agricultural.

He is looking forward to continuing to build his relationships.

Within Iowa State Kirby is heavily involved on campus and in many leadership positions. He is a member of Agricultural Business Club, Iowa Corn, Treasurer of Farm Operations Club, CALS Ambassador, CALS advantage day committee, and is on Homecoming Central Kickoff Committee. Kirby got involved early on in his college career and is going to stay involved.

For the summer of 2023 he'll be working for Innovative Ag Services in Masonville, Iowa as an Agronomy Intern. Where he will be assisting with crop scouting, promoting sales and all their products/programs. Kirby will also be working with their agronomist and location managers to solve problems that costumers may have.

Transition from high school to college was a major adjustment and culture change as learning to study and how to go about daily life at college. But making that transition in the house made a huge difference as it made a larger campus feel a lot smaller and gave him a backbone to lean on in times of need.

Kirby's has had a lot of good memory's since joining ETA, but his favorite was big bro little bro revels and everything that went into that such as the traditions.

Outside of the house and college Kirby likes to golf, spending time with family and friends, and boating or just being on the water in general.

Respectfully Written



Dylan Brader "2404"

AGR Leadership Conference

Alpha Gamma Rho has long been known for its qualities and characteristics regarding leadership. Starting February 3, 2023, the National AGR Leadership Seminar began, then coming to an end on February 5. This year, Eta chapter showed its ambition to strive for better men and decided to send sixteen New Initiates down to Kansas City, MO. Historically, Eta chapter has selected a few New Initiates to attend each year accompanied by the upperclassmen. This change of pace may just be what adds potential new value to the future of Eta Chapter.

The conference consisted of a series of large group and small group discussions, break-out sessions, and an awards ceremony. Additionally, this conference was represented by both members of Alpha Gamma Rho and Sigma Alpha. Aside from the sessions that were open to both, there were sessions specifically for Alpha Gamma Rho and for Sigma Alpha.

Throughout the weekend, the leadership conference was focused on communication, meeting new people, and knowing yourself or making yourself known. It was stressed heavily during the conference that communication is crucial to leadership, and what is even more important is the way people communicate to one another. One of the first break-out sessions was about networking. This session was structured around making connections for future benefits and opportunities. A very popular break-out session was the Personal Branding session. It emphasized the importance of an individual trying to show the best possible image of themselves. The concept is simple, an individual's personal brand is how people remember them. Hence, creating a positive image is important for current and future endeavors.

A few New Initiates of the Eta chapter took the time to reflect on the conference and share.

Jordan Lawless said “While attending Alpha Gamma Rho’s Leadership Seminar, I was able to establish multiple goals and action plans to bring back to 201 Gray and implement. We all enjoyed building our networks through working with other AGR chapters around the Midwest as well as the women of Sigma Alpha. I look forward to attending more Agricultural Leadership Seminars in the future!”

Sawyer Hansen remarked “Something I took away from the AGR Leadership Seminar was how important teamwork is. While learning about this, they showed us how all of our five senses could affect our communication and effectiveness as a team. This is something that I learned a lot from and will be happy to bring back to our Eta Chapter.”



Cole Nelson “2409”



Sixteen new initiates take a photo in the conference area



Eta Chapter poses with Sigma Alpha’s Delta Chapter

Founder's Day Recap



Alpha Gamma Rho-Eta chapter was happy to welcome over 40 alumni back to the chapter facility for the annual Founder's Day Ceremony on Saturday, February 11th. The festivities began with an Alumni Board Meeting, followed by lunch at noon and the ceremony at 1 pm.

Secretary, President, and Treasurer reports were given by Brian Lansing, Skylar Rinker, and Mike Nissley, respectively. The executive team and advisors followed by sharing updates on the active chapter and the honors and achievements earned in the last year. Highlighted was the acknowledgment of Eta chapter earning the 2022 Maynard H. Coe Efficiency Award at the National Convention.

Congratulations to the following recipients from the 2022 Founder's Day Ceremony! The 25th Year Testimonial was awarded to Mike Taylor (New Initiate Class of 1999). The 50th Year Testimonial was awarded to Sig Cornelius (New Initiate Class of 1973). Dan Johnson received the Alumni Achievement Award, and Scott Mortimer received the Agricultural Leadership Award. These award winners spoke about their time at Eta Chapter Alpha Gamma Rho's impact on their lives.

Finally, the 2023 Legacy Fund Achievement Grant recipients were announced and received their scholarships. The active chapter greatly appreciates the alumni's dedication to "giving back to future brothers" and assisting with their education.

Respectfully written,



Adam Zee "2398"



Alumni Spotlight



Bill Elson “1325”

This issue’s Alumni Spotlight recognizes Brother Bill Elson. Bill is originally from Bondurant, Iowa, and was raised on a diversified farm between Bondurant and Ankeny. Once he decided to attend Iowa State University after graduating high school, Bill chose to major in Agricultural Business and joined the Eta Chapter of Alpha Gamma Rho.

Bill was a member of the New Initiate Class of 1981 and received the pledge number of 1325. He fondly remembers spring breaks and pledge skips with brothers as well as his time serving as Social Chair and as a member of Kitchen Crew. Blue Room and the Rec Room were a few of his favorite spots to hang out in the house, and he had many memorable times at 201 Gray Ave. Bill had originally heard about Alpha Gamma Rho through his family, as his father, uncle, and older brother all preceded him as brothers in the fraternity. He says he is glad to be their legacy, and he is thankful for the lifelong friendships he made at Eta Chapter. Alpha Gamma Rho is where he made some of his best friends, many of which he still keeps in touch with 42 years later.

At Iowa State, Bill was involved as a Cyclone Guide, served as a member of the ISU Student Alumni Association, and was selected to be Greek Week Activities Director. One highlight from his time at Iowa State was when he refereed a volleyball game during Greek Olympics with Brother Dan Radig. The pair had the unfortunate responsibility of having to disqualify Sigma Nu from the tournament for including Cyclone basketball legend and future NBA All-Star Jeff Hornacek on their team (Division One athletes were not allowed to compete under the rules). Bill would go on to graduate from Iowa State in 1985 with a Bachelor’s Degree in Agricultural Business.

Brother Elson currently resides in West Des Moines, Iowa, and currently works for Legacy Financial Group in Des Moines, Iowa, as a Certified Financial Planner. He has worked in the financial industry for 35 years.

Written by,



Clayton Baum “2407”



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 via the email on the back page. Thanks in Advance!

Dean A. Danilson

Roger A. Kleese

Andrew Joe Fillipi

Matthew E Hamlett

Robert C Vasko

Brian William Sexton

William J Horan

Keith Sexton

Adrian Michael Richardson

Benjamin D. Sorensen

Nathan J. Meier

Alan A Meyer

Jeremy Maass

Zeb Guinn

Thomas F Kellogg

Heath L Brock

Kevin M Roepke

Jacob Weis

Recruitment Notice



Cole Bowden "2387"

Hello, my name is Cole Bowden and I am the current VNR of Recruitment majoring in Agronomy from Winthrop, IA. As a house, we are currently in heavy recruitment season for next Fall's class. We are taking any and all recommendations so please reach out! My contact information is below.

(319) 327-2316

cbowden@iastate.edu

ΑΓΡ IMPORTANT
UPCOMING DATES>>>

April 29th – AGR Pink Rose Formal

May 12th – End of Spring Semester

August 21st – Start of Fall Semester

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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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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