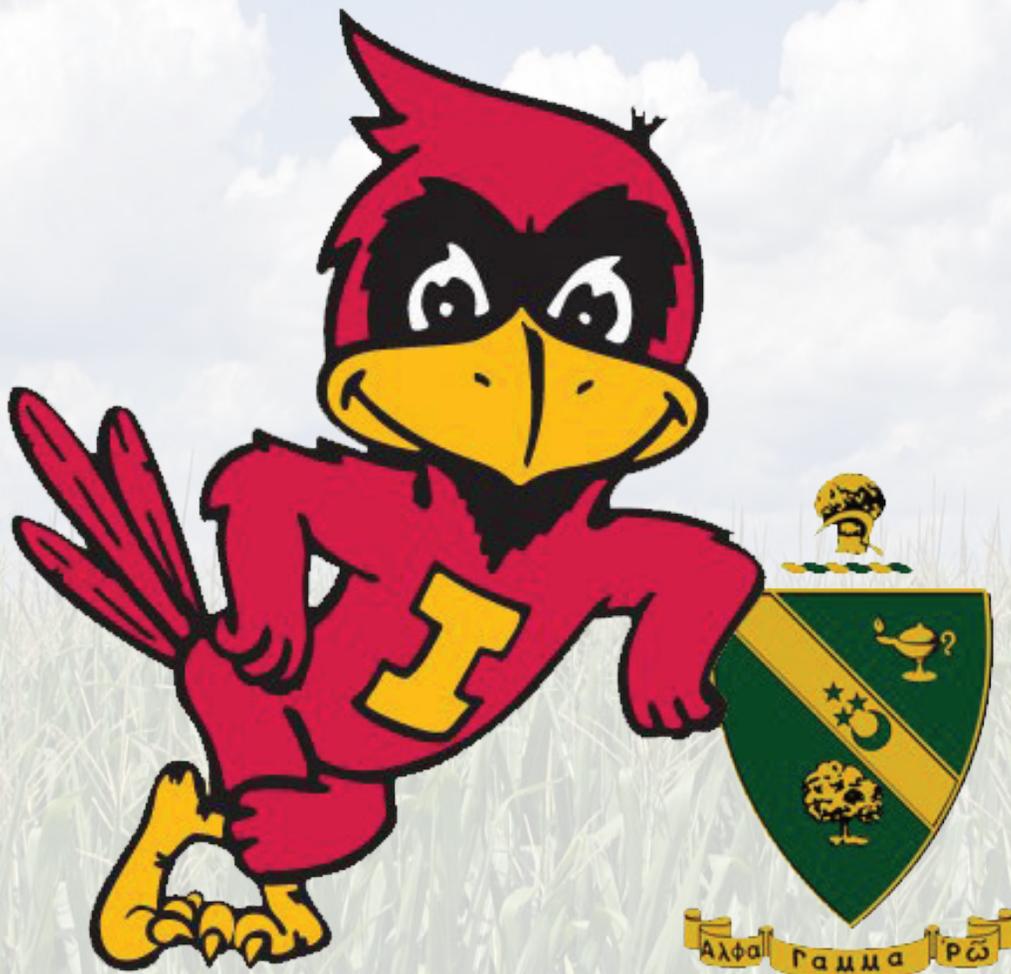




ΑΓΡ

Eta Chapter Newsletter
Iowa State University

THE CRESCENT



SUMMER 2023

Noble Ruler Report

Hello Again,

Greetings as the slow creep of summer continues to get closer and closer every day. I know for myself and most of the men here at 201 Gray can say that this semester and spring has gone by in the blink of an eye.

Since you last received the previous Crescent, our chapter has been hard at work finding success in every way possible, regardless of the activity! We have had an action-packed semester with our only weekend of not hosting an event or participating in an event being Easter!

The first event to take place was our Annual Mom's Weekend where the active chapter lovingly welcomed each other's mothers to the chapter facility. This year, the itinerary included a delicious meal prepared by chef Heather, as well as the traditional auction which was bid by Will Lapke and Gabe Shultz. This year, we were happy to raise \$17,315 on just 71 items! All of this money of course will be given to our Mom's Auxiliary Fund, a place where Mom Diane is able to purchase items that are beautiful for the chapter and give it a more 'home-like' feel. Dawson Brader now ran this event for the second year in a row and he did yet another great job. Also, in the month of May was our Spring Showdown Cattle Show paired with the Block and Bridle Club. Headed by Kyle Lois, Brian Graves, and Kamden Moffitt, this crew operated an event with over 240 entries despite the cold and damp weather. Of course, March was interrupted by Spring Break where members were able to see the sights of Cancun, Australia, Canada, Utah, and various parts of Europe! As we rounded out the month of March, brothers Tate Phillips, Nathan Orban, and more drove southeast to Tennessee to participate in the National AGR BBQ Competition! If you have ever been able to taste their cooking, let it be no surprise that the team was Chicken Champion, Pork Champion, Overall, Champion of the entire competition. In the same weekend as the BBQ Competition, Eta Chapter hosted the Governor of North Dakota and 2024 Presidential Candidate, Doug Bergum. When asking to learn more about Iowa Agriculture, Governor Bergum was sent directly to Eta Chapter and we were ecstatic to host him and his team for a night of dinner, networking, and hearing more about him.

While March was busy, April certainly did not slow down. The month was kicked off with our Greek Week Celebration with the chapter being paired with the lovely women of Alpha Omicron Pi and the men of Delta Chi! Although we were not able to be crowned overall champions, our chapter was able to walk out of the Awards Ceremony with a finalist for the Karaoke Performance and received accolades for top 3 Banners! As the semester progressed, the next event on the docket was our Spring Philanthropy, Wings on Rho. An event hosted by our philanthropy chairs Matt Brinkman, Beau Klaver, and John Mortimer as well as the women of Sigma Alpha. It was a great night of Chicken Wings, Cookies, Fries and more as we were able to serve over _____ meals and raise over \$ _____ for SHOP, the on-campus food pantry dedicated to ending food insecurity for students at Iowa State University.

To get the month of April wrapped up, it would not be an AGR spring without a great day in Boone for our Annual Spring Spectacular Jackpot Hog Show co-hosted with Block and Bridle. This year's event was once again run by Blake Webel and Daniel Hemphill where they were able to achieve record-breaking entries

and payouts of over 240 hogs and over \$8,000 in payouts. This show has gained great traction over the past two years of it being co-chaired by these two men and we look forward to seeing what next year's show is able to accomplish. The following Monday, the active chapter hosted our 4th Annual Women's Appreciation Dinner. This event took place on a beautiful day and provided a great environment to host over 50 respected women. The chapter was able to listen to Dean Sharron Evans as a keynote speaker to put the icing on the cake for the event, as multiple Industry Women, Faculty/Staff, and Housemothers continue to look forward to this event every year.

As the semester ending rapidly approached, our members took a trip southwest to Omaha, Nebraska for this year's Pink Rose Formal. Senior members James Chism and Kabe Boysen headed the charge for this year's event, and it was a great one as many members and company enjoyed one last event before the end of the semester!

The events at 201 Gray seem to be never-ending, always on the move to the next activity and always in motion, never allowing us to look back at all of our great accomplishments. However, one evening a year there is always time to do this. This is at the annual ISU Fraternal Awards of Excellence Ceremony. Each year, the sorority and fraternity office recognize and awards individuals and chapters across our community for the great things that we are able to do. This year's ceremony was no different for Eta Chapter. We were able to take home accolades for SFE Excellence in Civic Engagement, SFE Senior of the Year – Nathan Behrends, The Unsung Hero Award – Jack Chism, and at last, a top 5 finalist for the President's Cup once again!

To conclude, I would like to congratulate and send my best wishes to our 2023 graduating seniors. Our senior class has been excellent role models, leaders, mentors and more to everyone in the active chapter. They have undoubtedly left a many milestones and marks within Eta Chapter and their commitment to our brotherhood will not be forgotten. We cannot thank them enough for all they have done and the impact that they have made on the future of Eta Chapter. I personally can say they I have been able to learn something from each one of them and I will forever be grateful for the relationships that were formed with them and our fraternity.

As always, 201 Gray is always welcoming to past brothers. We expect to see many of you throughout the fall at tailgates, the homecoming ceremony, or if you're just in the area and are wanting a house tour. On behalf of all of the actives at 201 Gray, thank you



for your continued and unwavering support of our brotherhood, and for staying active in the success of the chapter. Eta Chapter continues to thrive because of the support, commitment, and belief you bless us all with and we look forward to matching and exceeding expectations!

All the best,

Ian Johnson "2357"

Mom's Report

It is always busy at Alpha Gamma Rho, and this Spring has not been an exception. The first weekend in March, AGR hosted Mom's weekend and, as usual, it was very successful and enjoyed by everyone. Spring break was the week of March 12-18. The weekend before classes resumed, the men of AGR and Block and Bridle members held the annual cattle show at the Hansen Center. Greek week followed on March 26-April 2. Members and their dates attended a bus party at Tim and Mary Heiller's on April 15. On April 16, the annual Fraternal Award of Excellence event took place at the ISU Memorial Union. On April 18, AGR, along with Sigma Alpha Sorority, hosted our spring philanthropy, Wings on Rho. This was followed by the Spring Spectacular pig show the weekend of April 22. The Women Appreciation dinner was held on April 24 with another delicious meal prepared by Chef Heather. This dinner, which honors women, continues to be one of the favorite events for the House Directors and Housemothers at Iowa State. AGR's formal was in Omaha, Nebraska the weekend of April 29th. Sometimes it is hard to believe members have time to go to class, study, complete assignments and projects, and be involved in clubs and committees. Their involvement on campus and the 3.33 GPA for the house would indicate, however, they get it done.

It is also that time of year when we all become aware that graduation is approaching. This is always a bittersweet time at the fraternity. The graduating seniors – who for 4 years have lived, grown, studied, led, played, worked, and entertained us at the AGR fraternity – are moving on to the next phase of their lives. As the NI class of 2019 prepares to enter the world of full-time work or graduate school, it brings back many memories. Every year between 25-30 enthusiastic big boys entered 201 Gray from different parts of the country with one thing in common: they wished to be in the field of Agriculture and Life Sciences. From this common beginning, life-long friendships, values, understanding, and acceptance of differences grows a mastery of young adulthood, and all of which contributes to the exemplary men they have become. It never feels like they have been here for 4 years and it always feels too soon. As is said every year, they will be missed.

Diane M. Pinneke



Diane Pinneke MSW
AGR Housemother



Alumni Board President Report

“The More Things Change, the More Things Stay the Same”

My fraternity journey began in August of 1986, as my terrified and shocked parents dropped me off at 201 Gray Ave. In the last 37 years, I have had an amazing journey. In addition to 4 years of undergrad living, I served as chapter advisor for 23 school years and in 2017 became the AGR National Advisor Coordinator. In that role I have gotten to work with advisors from numerous AGR chapters across the country, and in my fraternity journey I have gotten to observe a lot of stuff. This Crescent article submission as ETA Alumni Board President will take a little different twist. I am going to attempt to outline key things that have changed and key things that have stayed the same at 201 Gray.

Things That Have Changed:

- 1. No VEIHSHA, No Rhomates, and No Varieties:** The permanent cancellation of VEISHEA, the largest student-run festival in the United States, was a huge blow to Alpha Gamma Rho. The festival was ended by ISU President Steven Leath in May of 2014. The leadership opportunities provided by that organization and the benefits from serving that have been lost will truly never be replaced. The Rhomate program was ended by ISU President Martin Jiske late in the 1990s. It was driven by a “date rape” scandal at an ISU Fraternity (NOT AGR) and all “little sister” programs would be disbanded immediately lest the fraternities on campus would lose their ISU charters. Much like VEISHEA, the positive benefits of the Rhomate program will never be replaced. Varieties ended in the late 2010s simply by houses losing interest and lack of participation. I realize that for many alumni reading this, that is hard to imagine. For those like myself who participated in Varieties, it was a great part of the college experience.
- 2. Societal Trends Towards “Wokeness”:** Unless you are a part of daily campus life, it is hard to understand the evolution of, for a lack of better term, the “wokeness” movement. We live in a time where a simple poor choice in a brother’s words/actions can have a horrible effect on his career and livelihood. We are blessed with having one of the most reasonable campuses regarding these issues. However, it is a constant concern. The approach of treating everyone with respect and dignity while avoiding things that you do not believe in has been a successful path forward.
- 3. Increased Faith Involvement:** The percentage of our undergraduate brothers who are actively involved in a faith journey is likely three-to-four times that of our historical participation. It’s hard not to think that the prevalence of COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns and mandates have played a role here. There is a very positive trend across all denominations, and I pray that it continues.
- 4. Improved Relations Between Eta Chapter and the National AGR Fraternity:** Ok, to be fair it would be hard for Eta Chapter’s relations with the National Fraternity to get much worse than they were in the late 80s and 90s. Eta is well into its second decade of a very good working relationship with the National organization. Eta brothers are always some of the largest attendee chapters at spring leadership conferences and national AGR conventions, and the effectiveness of our chapter service visits have been excellent. In addition, we have several alumni playing key roles in the National Fraternity. Grant Bargfrede is currently serving as Operations Director, Greg Nickerson is currently serving as National Grand President, and Jim Borel is currently serving on the National Board of Directors
- 5. Modern Facilities:** In the late ‘80s, it was safe to say that nobody joined AGR at ISU because of the amazing building. While the facility was adequate, it was not a strength. The remodel and addition project of 2018 led by Mike Nissly has blessed our undergraduates with a “first class” living experience. I can assure you that the alumni board is proactively working to keep it that way. The last 10 years has seen a dramatic upgrade in ISU Greek facilities, and AGR takes a back seat to no one.

Things That Have Stayed the Same:

- 1. Culture:** Just like the late '80s, Eta Chapter is still filled with undergraduates in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. With that comes the agricultural values of hard work, loyalty, perseverance, and always wanting to be busy. The culture is certainly about working hard to achieve a great college career and having a lot of fun along the way. This is aided by still having our senior brothers live in the house all four years. That fact has gone a long way to keeping our fraternity something our alumni can be proud of despite societal changes.
- 2. Job Market Success:** I used to describe the ISU CALS Fall Career Fair as Eta Chapter's "Super Bowl." Winning in the agricultural job market has always been a priority, it really is the ultimate measure of our fraternity's success. This has never been a bigger strength than today. Most graduating seniors have full time jobs wrapped up BEFORE they leave for the Christmas Holiday. The number of underclassmen who have internships booked for this coming summer is too long to list. In numerous conversations with parents asking me about the benefits of having their son live at 201 Gray, I often close a fruitful discussion with this simple line: "If you want your son to get a great job after they graduate, you want them to live at Alpha Gamma Rho."
- 3. Alumni Support:** During the late 80's we were blessed with regular interactions with such prominent alumni as Marv Walters, Leo Waggoner, Wayne Tyler, Rollie Ferguson, and Charlie Brown, just to name a few. One of my best alumni experiences was to work closely with Brad Peyton during his time as chairman of the 1987 ETA Chapter 75th Anniversary Celebration. Today our undergraduates are blessed with even more alumni support. Mike Nissly serving as Alumni treasurer and Dan Stockdale serving as fraternity legal counsel are great examples. Additionally, we continue to enjoy elite chapter advisor teams and our ability to recruit successful alumni to serve on our corporation board is another plus. The large crowds that we continue to enjoy for Homecoming and Founder's Day as well as the generous financial support to the fraternity are why great alumni support is something that has NOT changed.
- 4. Campus Involvement/Leadership:** While the organizations at Iowa State have certainly changed over the years, our brothers still are very active and involved on campus. Homecoming, IFC, Greek Week, CALS Council, judging teams, etc. are still being let by AGR's. Additionally, our upperclassmen brothers continue to win coveted awards: Nathan Behrends Greek man of year and CALS college BVCVBBN.

In closing, I hope you found these observations at least interesting. As alumni, you should feel very proud that Eta Chapter has continued to evolve in the quest "To make better men, and through them a better and broader Agriculture."

To our beloved Fraternity....



Tim Heiller "1431"



Alumni Spotlight



Thomas L. Lyon “783”

This issue’s Alumni Spotlight recognizes our late Brother Thomas L. Lyon (1940-2021), who passed away in March of 2021. Thomas was born to his parents Earl and Nellie in Toledo, Iowa, on September 12th, 1940, and was raised on his family’s dairy farm along with his cousin William Zmolek and his brothers Howard, G. Joe, and Durward Lyon. Upon graduating high school, he decided to attend Iowa State University and join the Eta Chapter of Alpha Gamma Rho. He graduated with a degree in dairy science in 1962.

A member of the New Initiate Class of 1958, Lyon was known for his heavy involvement in the Iowa State University Dairy Science program, and he was often found working at the university’s dairy farm whenever he could. Additionally, he was heavily involved in the Dairy Science Club on campus, and he was a frequent contributor to fraternal events at AGR. Brother Kenneth Baughman remembers, “Tom Lyon was my [New Initiate] brother in 1958. He was an outstanding leader in the dairy industry and worked with dairy cattle research on the ISU dairy farm while as a student. His leadership qualities came to bear as President of the Wisconsin Board of Regents.” Brother Lyon was well-loved by his fellow fraternity brothers during his time at Eta Chapter, and he was

a shining example of determination and dedication in a fraternity and university with no shortage of hard workers.

Upon his graduation from Iowa State in 1962, Thomas decided to forge his own path in the dairy cattle industry rather than returning to Lyon Jerseys, the family dairy operation ran by his father, Earl, and his brothers Howard and Joe. He accepted a position with Midwest Breeders Cooperative in 1967, working in marketing and communications out of Shawano, Wisconsin. Thomas was promoted several times during his time with the company, and after a merger of several dairy industry cooperatives and companies, he retired as CEO of Cooperative Resources International in 2002. Thanks to his leadership, the regional dairy cattle breeding cooperative that he had joined in 1960s would become one of the largest such organizations in the world.

Upon his retirement in 2003, Thomas would consult for the secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture. In this role, he advocated for the preservation of rural Wisconsin and protection of farmland in the state. In addition to this role, he served as co-chair of the Future of Farming and Rural Life in Wisconsin project at the Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters, where he helped to report on statewide agricultural issues and develop policy recommendations for the state at large.

Those close to Brother Lyon described him as someone with a deep interest in the well-being of dairy farmers and the health of the rural communities where they called home. Beyond his career in the dairy industry, Thomas used his personal time to help rural Wisconsin and the state’s dairy industry in a number of ways. As a result of his efforts, he was inducted into the National Dairy Shrine, the National Cooperative Business Hall of Fame, and the Wisconsin Business Hall of Fame, and he was awarded with an Honorary Doctorate Degree from the University of Wisconsin – Madison.

Another passion of Thomas’s was education. He truly believed in the importance of higher education, especially for youth from farms and rural areas like his own. His interest in higher learning was rewarded with a position on the University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents from 1986 to 1993, and he served as the board’s president from 1990 to 1992.

Relationships meant everything to Thomas. He emphasized getting together with close family, staying in touch with relatives, and supporting each other through times of adversity. He and his wife, Barbara, were true high school sweethearts, and they celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary in June of 2020. Upon his retirement from Cooperative Resources International in 2002, Thomas and Barbara moved to Cambridge, Wisconsin, to be closer to friends and family in the Madison area.

Alumni Spotlight *cont.*

While his time in Wisconsin provided him the chance to pursue his personal and professional dreams, make a living in the agriculture industry, and build lifelong friendships across the state, Brother Lyon's heart was never very far from his home in rural Iowa. Friends and family alike heard many times about the "farm kid from Iowa."



Brother Thomas Lyon was a beloved member of the Eta Chapter of Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity. His legacy has impacted the dairy industry in countless ways since his time at 201 Gray Ave., both during his time as a hardworking student at Iowa State and as a passionate advocate for agriculture in the state of Wisconsin. We are extremely saddened by his passing, and we hope to continue to honor his legacy in everything we do at Eta Chapter.

Written by Brother Clayton Baum

Clayton Baum "2407"

Membership Development Report

My name is Lex Kassel I am the current VNR of Membership development. I am from Emmetsburg, Iowa where I grew up on a family row crop operation. I will be a junior this fall studying Agricultural Business. It is my pleasure to reflect on the state of our brotherhood at 201 Gray.

Brotherhood this spring took a different look but was a great success. With brothers graduating early and brothers studying abroad, the numbers in the house were lower than normal. This led to the brothers at the house to become closer with each other, tightening current bonds and creating new ones. The brothers abroad were able to experience once in a lifetime views and experiences alongside some of their closest friends. The semester they had and the memories they made will last a lifetime. Back at home we were able to enjoy the beautiful spring weather we were blessed to have. Almost every afternoon you could find brothers on the patio, playing bags or enjoying the sunshine. We started a new tradition of renting out a movie theatre, which we are looking to continue in the fall. We are beyond excited to welcome all our brothers back in the fall and have a full house again.

Focusing on the fall, we are excited to welcome the 25 members of NI23. We are excited to connect with them and educate them on everything Alpha Gamma Rho. We are also excited to get the senior class back together and be able to hear all about their time overseas and hear their stories and experiences. Homecoming is on everyone's radar with a great pairing of the ladies of Chi-Omega. This will be great for brotherhood as we will all come together to win homecoming. We will look to continue the academic and professional excellence we take pride in, while creating relationships with brothers that will last the rest of our lives. If anyone would like to connect with me, my email is lckassel@iastate.edu.



Lex Kassel "2386"
VNR of Membership Development



Undergraduate Member Spotlight



Spencer Collins “2328”

Spencer Collins graduated with a degree in Agricultural Studies here at Iowa State. On May 12th he walked across the CALS ceremony and was handed his diploma. Spencer grew up on a family farm in Adel, Iowa and is to return there upon getting his degree. Spencer always knew he wanted to come to Iowa State and had hope of receiving the honor of a bid to become an AGR.

As Spencer decided to come to Iowa State, he knew he was returning home. He saw the benefit of coming to a university to learn and absorb all the knowledge he could. Even though a degree was not necessary for his future, he came to get a four-year degree. Coming to a university can provide agriculturalist with business and management skills that are essential for running a successful farm. Courses such as accounting and marketing can help farmers develop the skills needed to manage finances, market their products, and expand their business.

With agriculture undergoing major changes on the technological side of equipment, genetics, and fertilizers/herbicides learning how to incorporate those through different classes is a huge advantage. For an example when working on the Ag 450 farm he was given the opportunity of testing a new practice that he can bring to the home operation. Also being given the opportunity of running his own farm and make his own decisions, allowed him to grow his capabilities that he can take home. Spencer will use his knowledge to adopt new farming practices that are more efficient and cost-effective. He will implement precision agriculture techniques that use data analytics and technology to optimize his crop yields and reduce input costs. He will use techniques such as crop rotation, cover cropping, and integrated pest management to reduce the use of pesticides and fertilizers, to improve soil health, and promote biodiversity within his rotation.

As soon as Spencer step foot on this campus he started making connections that he can use throughout his life. He met the friends that will be in his wedding and who would drop anything if he ever needed help. Through the internships during the summer months and the classes there is no doubt of a benefit of connections from all over the U.S. and knowledge. Coming to college allowed him to mature and grow his professionalism. When was Spencer asked was it worth coming to a university and pay the \$20,000 a year? Spencer says 100% yes and does not regret his choice at all as the value long term outweighs the cost.

Respectfully Written,



Dylan Brader “2404”



RAGBRAI

With Iowa's annual R.A.G.B.R.A.I. Summer race stopping in Ames on Tuesday, July 25th. 201 Gray Avenue is hosting a fundraiser event for all riders, and we look forward to seeing many brothers and their families in attendance.

With this being a summer event, we will need volunteers to serve in a variety of roles. If interested, please contact BJ Brugman at bj@getdistynct.com



Golfing For AGR Scholarships

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

Mark your Calendars:

When: Friday, September 1st

Time: 11:00 AM registration starts; 12:00 Noon Shotgun start

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

Cost: \$100 Alumni and friends; \$50 Actives (18 holes, cart, burger lunch, prizes and scholarship donation)

Notes:

- 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 ph. 712-389-6012 or John Bruene ph. 319-530-1838 | agrgolf@wiatel.net

AGR Across the Globe

Alpha Gamma Rho has a long reputation of going above and beyond, but even so, this spring semester was unprecedented. AGR has 14 members doing domestic study abroad, study abroad, or a cooperation abroad. Living abroad this semester has offered many members invaluable experiences, new perspectives, and many opportunities.

This semester, members of Alpha Gamma Rho have touched many different corners of the globe including Italy, Greece, Ireland, and Ghana. The members abroad have encountered a range of different and unique experiences.

These three Eta AGR members studied abroad in Florence, Italy. With study abroad, you can experience new places and cultures, make new connections from around the world, and gain a global perspective all while earning credits towards your degree. It will allow you to develop highly-valued skills such as intercultural communication and more.

Jacob Nelson said “During my time abroad I learned many things about different cultures and different ways of life. We made many lifelong memories, one being riding a camel through the desert looking at the pyramids. I would highly recommend for any future AGR to consider a study abroad as it is one of my favorite college experiences.” He along with three other members studied abroad in Thessaloniki, Greece.

From Jack Chism who is in Ghana “I am working as a farm manager for a startup company called GUS (Ghana US Farming), the company’s mission is to increase the food supply of the country. I would recommend this experience to any AGR brother that is feeling adventurous!”

Respectfully Submitted,



Cole Nelson “2409”



L to R: Ian Latham, Ben Trio, Charley Zylstra in Florence Italy



L to R: Jacob Bockman, Devin Devore, Jacob Nelson, and Kody Koberg in Thessaloniki, Greece



Jack Chism in Ghana, Africa



Member Directory

Alpha Gamma Rho – Eta Chapter has rolled out a new member directory! To access, use a smart phone camera and scan the below QR code! Please send any information updates to jermier9@iastate.edu



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

Adrian Michael Richardson

Matthew E Hamlett

Keith Sexton

Alan A Meyer

William J Horan

Nathan J. Meier

Thomas F Kellogg

Benjamin D. Sorensen

Zeb Guinn

Jacob Weis

Jeremy Maass

Kevin M Roepke

Heath L Brock

Brian William Sexton

ΑΓΡ IMPORTANT
UPCOMING DATES>>>

July 25th - AGR Ragbrai Event

August 21st - Start of Fall Semester

September 1st - Golfing for AGR
Scholarships

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

www.isuagr.360alumni.com

ΑΓΡ



Alpha Gamma Rho

Eta Chapter, Iowa State University

201 Gray Avenue

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

Meet the Editors



Bryce Jermier
VNR of Alumni Relations
jermier9@iastate.edu



Connor McCoy
Assistant VNR of
Alumni Relations
clmccoy@iastate.edu



Clayton Baum
Crescent Writer
claybaum@iastate.edu



Dylan Brader
Crescent Writer
braderdy@iastate.edu



Cole Nelson
Crescent Writer
crn4@iastate.edu