

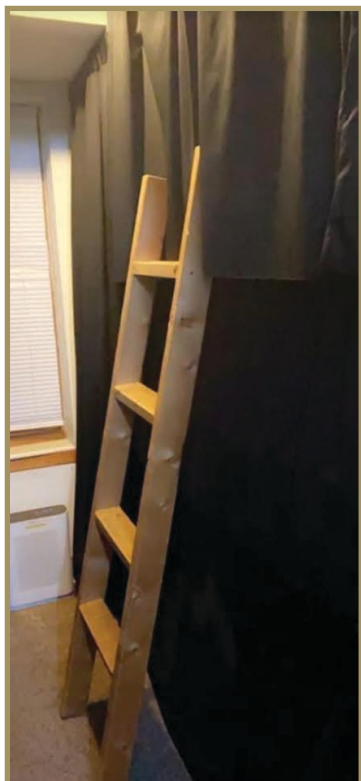


Epsilon Alumni Connections

AD ASTRA PER ASPERA *Through Adversity to the Stars*



Work has been done to reduce common-touch surfaces in the house.



Curtains are hung on the bunks to help slow the spread of COVID-19.

We are all facing serious adversity nowadays, including those of us at Epsilon Chapter. As an Alumni Board, our goal has been to keep the Chapter moving forward in a very challenging time. Hopefully, this newsletter finds you and your family finding ways to move forward as well.

Here is a summary of just a few of the challenges we have met head-on this year:

- Iowa State University Department of Residence changed the starting date for residence hall contracts to May 1. We have completed our second year of a modified recruitment schedule. This spring, the recruitment platform involved lots of video calls and virtual house tours for potential members.
- Iowa State University went completely online from March to July due to COVID-19. In that time, our treasurers aggressively cut variable costs while maintaining good standing in our other accounts payable. We provided credits to brothers totaling approximately 32% of their spring house bill, while enabling eight brothers who needed to live at the Chapter House through the summer to keep their plans intact. Many Greek houses could not say the same on many of these accounts.
- We met the challenges of COVID-19 head-on. A subteam met all summer to create a return-to-the-house plan and a reaction plan for this fall. We made \$16,000 worth of critical improvements to the Chapter House to help reduce the risk of spreading the virus. I am happy to report none of our life-in members have tested positive. We are so thankful and proud of the responsibility our men have taken to maintain a safe environment.

Despite these challenges, the fall semester is going really well!

- The active Chapter has thrived in a strange academic environment. They achieved a Chapter GPA of 3.76, which was number one in IFC.
- We activated our 1,000th member.
- Our alumni donations were responsible for awarding around \$5,000 in scholarships this fall, with another \$5,000 planned to award next spring. Read our scholarship article on page 2 for details on our named scholarship program and how you can participate.
- We have seen three young alumni step onto the Alumni Board and tackle the treasurer, house manager, and scholarship positions head-on. As we all learn to work remotely, it has opened doors for remote alumni to take more active roles. Wondering if you can help? Reach out to me!
- We saw a good-sized group of legacies join the Chapter this last year. This happens because of referrals and positive feedback from alumni like you. Keep it up—we need more!

We missed seeing you all for Homecoming. Here's to hoping we can get back to normal in 2021!

Fraternally,
Jarod Carl '00
Alumni Board President
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The Alumni Board made good use of Zoom for meetings this year.

BETA SIG SCHOLARSHIPS

Below are the current and new scholarships available to active brothers of Epsilon Chapter. Want to help support our undergraduates?
Consider donating to the scholarship fund or applying to create a scholarship of your own!

Donor(s)	Annual Amount	Scholarship Name	Criteria	Awardee	Year in Existence
ISU Foundation Endowed Fund	\$500	Senior Legacy	Beta Sigma Psi Member, Senior year. Lasting legacy and impact on the Chapter	Alex Retallick, Stephen Sabharwal	10+ Years
ISU Foundation Endowed Fund	\$250	Balanced Beta Sig	Balance of the 3-S's (Spiritual, Scholastic, Social)	Kyle Kretschmar	10+ Years
ISU Foundation Endowed Fund	\$250	Balanced Beta Sig	Balance of the 3-S's (Spiritual, Scholastic, Social)	Justin Jones	10+ Years
Brenda and William Jentzen (E-292)	\$250	Balanced Beta Sig	Balance of the 3-S's (Spiritual, Scholastic, Social)	Alex Retallick	*New
Kim and Scott Herren (E-509)	\$1,000	Scott & Kim Herren Scholarship	Beta Sigma Psi, Entering 2nd year Beta Sig	Jarrett Loseke	*New
Holly and Don Beerman (E-259)	\$300	Don Beerman Scholarship	Beta Sigma Psi Member, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Major	Aaron Gerdts	*New
Jan Cooper and Duane Grummer (E-209)	\$1,000	Duane Grummer and Jan Cooper Scholarship	Beta Sigma Psi Member, Scholastic Achievement and Commitment to Service	AJ Gambill	*New
Doug McKechnie (E-353)	\$300	Doug McKechnie E-353 Scholarship	Beta Sigma Psi Member, Junior and above, Leadership, On-Campus Involvement, Church Involvement, Scholastic Achievement	Alex Retallick	*New
Karen and Richard Harrison (E-72)	\$2,500	The Richard Harrison and Karen Harrison Beta Sigma Psi Engineering Scholarship	Beta Sigma Psi Member, Engineering Major	Jared Greiner	*New
Dianne and Lynn Anderson (E-236)	\$2,500	Lynn A. Anderson BSP Leadership Scholarship	Beta Sigma Psi Member, Leadership	Aaron Gerdts	6 Years



New members on a trip to Riverside Bible Camp. Back, from left: Kerwn Shaw, Erik Gerdts, Martin Happel, Avery Anderson, Isaiah Walsh, and Luke Jacobi. Front: Ashton White, Luke Schmid, Ryan Ungs, and Chris Sabharwal.

Cream of the Crop

Welcome, Fall New Members

Avery Anderson
Atlantic, Iowa

Erik Gerdts*
St. Ansgar, Iowa

Martin Happel
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Luke Jacobi*
West Des Moines, Iowa

Gavin Petrak
Grimes, Iowa

Chris Sabharwal*
Spirit Lake, Iowa

Luke Schmid
Appleton, Wis.

Kerwn Shaw
Creston, Iowa

Ryan Ungs
Boone, Iowa

Isaiah Walsh
Maquoketa, Iowa

Ashton White
Carlisle, Iowa

*Legacy

BETA SIG IS A FAMILY

Why Richard Harrison '60 Gives Back to Epsilon Chapter and ISU

I graduated in 1962 and married my wife, Karen, the next day at Memorial Lutheran Church in Ames. We left four days later for the Boston area, for my first job at Raytheon. I got my master's, specializing in computer design, in 1966 at Northeastern University. I took a new job that September with AC Electronics in Milwaukee. From then until retirement, I developed and designed aerospace and automotive computers. I retired in 2001 with Delphi Automotive Systems (previously a division of General Motors) as a Principal Technical Fellow in Kokomo, Indiana.

I currently live in Kokomo and travel extensively throughout the world; we have visited 83 countries on all seven continents. Our last trip was to South Africa, and we returned home just before COVID-19 struck. We are safe at home, enjoying our many hobbies and friends. We look forward to traveling to Garner, Iowa, over Thanksgiving to see our first new great-grandson.



My computer career started after interviewing with many companies in the East Coast and Midwest. My choice of AC Electronics gave me a foundational opportunity: I was a lead engineer that developed the inertial navigational computer for the Boeing 747 aircraft. It was the first time a commercial aircraft had no navigator in the cockpit. This led me to becoming a supervisor and later an engineering manager that developed other aerospace computers, and later automotive computers. I retired in 2001 as a Principle Technical Fellow, the highest technical position within General Motors or Delphi Automotive Systems. During my career I led and trained hundreds of engineers; I believe that I made

a difference in each of their lives and careers. One inspiration that guided me during my career is this: "Don't wait for your ship to come in—swim out after it." This inspiration says a lot and has guided me throughout my career.

Looking back on my career, I can see the many benefits of being a Beta Sig: the love of brotherhood, strengths in my religious beliefs, acceptance of people as they are, courage to be myself, and being a leader in my church. I have always been a leader in the many churches I have belonged to in my years.

My wife, Karen, was a friend of the Beta Sigs before I met her at the University Lutheran Church off campus. She (as my date) and I often played bridge with the housemother, "Mom T," and Karen's dorm housemother at the Chapter House. This friendship led to our marriage in 1962. Our association with ISU and Beta Sigma Psi also led our two daughters, Barbra and Suzanne, to become Beta Sig Little Sisters while they attended ISU; they also married Beta Sigs. Thus, our family has a strong foundation of supporting the Fraternity.

SUPPORTING BETA SIGMA PSI

Jerry Johanson '56, a Beta Sig active from my hometown, contacted me during the summer of 1959. He did an easy and soft sell of the Fraternity—it was an easy decision for me because of my Lutheran ties. My life as a Beta Sig was very "safe" in an unfamiliar city and campus. I had 50 instant friends and could count on them to help me overcome any obstacles in my new environment. Because the Fraternity was foundational in my college life, my career, and my financial success, my wife and I wanted to give back in some way. We decided to help an engineering student in the Chapter seek financial help in the form of a scholarship. In fact, we decided to make this financial help in the form of an endowment that will last forever! We have created other scholarship endowments at ISU in previous years and expanded our consideration with this special Beta Sigma Psi token. We are currently working on other financial endowments at ISU, including emergency grants that will help students who encounter financial hardships that might otherwise cause them to drop out of college.

BETA SIGMA PSI AND ISU REPRESENT MY FOUNDATION

I became interested in electronics as a teenager while enjoying my model railroad. My grandfather and uncle were electricians, and I assisted them in wiring new houses that my father, as a home builder in Marshalltown, built. I didn't have to think twice about my career choice or where I would go to college; Iowa State University, because of its convenience and reputation, was automatic. After graduating with my bachelor's and master's, I was equipped to pursue my dream of designing computers.

MY SPARE TIME

I have many hobbies and other things keeping me busy, including model railroading, genealogy, woodworking, electronic projects, computer technology, computer programming, Bridge, Kiwanis, Church, Bible studies, bicycling, traveling, and photography. I seldom have idle time and seem to keep busy—even during the current pandemic. I have a very complete HO gauge model railroad. It has 440 feet of track, 44 switches, and is controlled by my own designed-and-built electronics. There is a commercial computer involved that I have programmed to monitor the state of the trains and display their whereabouts on a 27-inch overhead monitor. Though the model railroad is complete and fully landscaped, I often find projects that enhance the control system or expand the train capacity in some way. In addition to my own setup, I help other model railroaders with their projects.

Connect with Epsilon Online



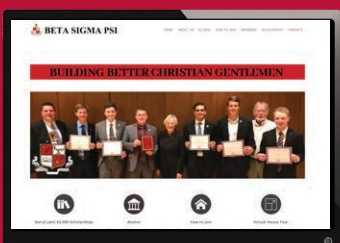
www.epsilon.betasigmapsi.org



Beta Sigma Psi - Epsilon Chapter



@BetaSigmaPsiISU



CARRYING ON IN THE FALL

Brothers Make the
Most of 2020

This last year has been tough for all of us at Epsilon Chapter, but there appears to be a renewed spirit among the active members. Last spring, when Iowa State went all virtual, almost all members moved back home. Despite these odd circumstances, the Chapter achieved a 3.76 GPA. This secured the top spot in IFC and fourth among the sorority and fraternity community. We had nine active members graduate last spring and we were sadly unable to recognize them at our usual senior graduation dinner. Those members are:

Michael Flanscha '17
Cameron Green '17
Jesse Martinson '17
Eric McEntee '17
Riley Schrimper '17
Tyler Smith '17
Joel Wacker '17
Jacob Wheaton '17
Andrew Wilmes '17

This fall, we are excited to be living together in the Chapter House again. We have some new COVID-19 precautions this year, such as wearing masks in common areas, split dinner times, and using the housemother's apartment as a quarantine room in the event someone tests positive. The most difficult part is limiting guests and out-of-house members in the living areas. The brothers have taken well to the new precautions, and we have done well so far at limiting the spread of the virus through the Chapter House.

On September 20, we held a car wash philanthropy for Habitat for Humanity. It was great to find a way to assist them given the current restrictions that prevent our usual Beta Sig Brunch.

Chapter morale is high, and members are enjoying the Fraternity experience. As much as members would love to do events with the community and on campus, this is a unique opportunity for the Chapter to take a breath and focus on what's important as a Beta Sig: promoting relationships that allow our members to be Christian gentlemen. As I remember Winnie the Pooh saying, "Doing nothing often leads to the very best of something," I look forward to what the rest of this semester brings for Epsilon Chapter.

Fraternally,
Justin Jones '17
President
jwj@iastate.edu



Epsilon Alumni Connections

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Members host a car wash in September for Habitat for Humanity.



Luke Schmid '20 chats with Mom Jet while wearing masks.



A significant effort was made to re-do the retaining wall by the basketball court.



(Right) The new fire pit on the west side of the Chapter House. Members spent a Saturday afternoon building the pit.