



# Epsilon Alumni Connections

## Providing the Ideal Environment *Why Jeanette La Grange Looks Forward to Role as House Director*

As a longtime Ames community member, **Jeanette La Grange** was already familiar with Epsilon Chapter's quality brotherhood. "For many years, I observed the men of Beta Sigma Psi and the many ways in which they help others."



*"I have held the men of BΣΨ in very high regard, and they have a brotherhood among themselves that is to be envied. They truly care for each other and demonstrate it regularly."*

In the short time Jeanette has worked alongside the Chapter, she has found they have far exceeded her expectations. "I have held the men of BΣΨ in very high regard. They have a brotherhood among themselves that is to be envied. They truly care for each other and demonstrate it regularly."

All Epsilon Chapter members are familiar with the Three S's known as commitment to spiritual, scholastic, and social enrichment. Yet it takes a dedicated type of membership, such as Epsilon's, to exemplify these values. Despite being new to BΣΨ, these values are evident to Jeanette daily.

"BΣΨ encourages scholastic excellence by holding one another accountable for their classwork and homework, and help each other when someone might be struggling with a concept. It is beautiful to see how they care and work together. Spiritual development is practiced regularly in their meetings and is evident in how they talk and act. It is only natural that with the closeness they possess that they are also social. This is demonstrated through their intramural competi-

tions, activities on campus, and their sponsored events. A fourth value could certainly be service as this group of men completes service on a regular basis both within their Chapter and in the community at large."

Through these actions, the undergraduate members have made Jeanette feel at home with Epsilon. "Whether I'm in my apartment or other parts of the Chapter House, I'm interacting with members. Enjoying lunch and dinner with this group is a pleasure indeed."

Jeanette hopes as time goes by, she'll be able to further contribute to their brotherhood and BΣΨ experience. "Thank you for the opportunity you have given me to be the house director for this great group of young men!"

Before applying for the position, Jeanette was employed as a parish worker and secretary at Memorial Lutheran Church in Ames. She also worked 30-plus years at Iowa State University as a medical transcriptionist and as a secretary for the department of statistics while fulfilling her other roles as a wife, mother, and grandmother.

Jeanette can be reached at [jeanette.lagrange@gmail.com](mailto:jeanette.lagrange@gmail.com).



## *Growing Spiritually, Scholastically, and Socially* Epsilon Chapter Remains Strong Leader Amidst ISU Changes

The Alumni Board is so proud of the accomplishments of Epsilon Chapter. Their grades were first among IFC chapters in fall 2017 with a 3.29 GPA and second in spring 2018 with a 3.32 GPA. On top of that, they achieved excellent recruitment results this year, moving 18 new members into the Chapter. The men continued their solid track record of achieving awards as well.

### *Members Earn Edwards Award and ISU President's Cup*

This spring, Epsilon earned the Edwards Award, Beta Sigma Psi's award for Chapter Management, and the ISU President's Cup, the highest award given to any chapter in the Greek community at Iowa State. There are also several individual leaders in the Chapter. Epsilon men hold positions on the IFC board; one member received the 2018 Wallace E. Barron All-University Senior Award given to only seven undergraduates per year; and members are involved in various ISU organizations. Just as importantly, we can trust our members to make good decisions.

### *Epsilon Chapter Remains a Leader with Risk Management Program*

Since the fall of 2017, four fraternities were suspended from ISU Greek events or left campus. Nationally, seven Greek members died in the past year because of hazing. However, our undergraduates are continually working to remove any semblance of such from their ceremonies and activities. As our national organization of Beta Sigma Psi discusses the direction of

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## Growing Spiritually, Scholastically, and Socially

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the national Fraternity, Epsilon Chapter serves as the model organization.

### Your Contribution Makes a Difference

In other news, the following Chapter House improvements have been completed or are underway:

- A new roof installed in October 2018.
- New ADA doors on the back of the Chapter House.
- Second-floor bathroom remodel.
- New window hardware to improve energy efficiency.

Furthermore, thanks to the generosity of alumni such as yourself, we awarded the following to our worthy undergraduate brothers:

- \$1,400 in scholarships to all Dean's List recipients in the fall, with intentions to repeat for the spring.
- Three Darryl Jahn Scholarships in the amount of \$1,500 each to incoming Lutheran freshmen men to ISU.
- The \$2,000 Lynn Anderson Scholarship was awarded to **Reed Burress '14** for his leadership.
- \$2,000 in leadership awards to other Beta Sigs with the Junior and Senior Leadership Scholarships.

These improvements and awards are critical to being able to thank our undergraduates for their continued effort and to attract the best new members to the Fraternity.

### How the New Iowa State Ruling Affects Greek Housing

Our support of the undergraduates is ever-critical following the disappointing decisions that Iowa State University has made in the last year concerning the Greek community. For years, fraternities have had a symbiotic relationship with the residence halls and were permitted to recruit men into the Chapter over the course of the summer, which helped alleviate the overpopulation of the dorms.

When I recruited in the summer of 2001, we could sign new members to move into the Fraternity house with minimal deposit penalty up until they moved into the dorms. Yet, within the last five years, that deadline has shifted from August 1 to May 1.

This coming year, the Department of Residence will penalize any freshman member who decides to join a fraternity after May 1, 2019, with a bill for 50% of rooming charges and 80% of their remaining food bill for the entire academic year. This means that a new in-house member who signs after May 1, 2019, will owe a penalty of

\$5,750 or more to Iowa State residence halls even though the member may never live in the dorms.

### What Does This Mean for Epsilon Chapter?

During years of peak growth in student population, the University over-built dormitories and over-bought apartment complexes. There is now an abundance of dorms and contracted University housing available and an overpopulation of apartment buildings in Ames. For the first time in years, enrollment at Iowa State dropped. The residence halls are trying to preserve their income by preventing fraternities from pulling new members into chapter houses.

The new May 1 deadline makes it extremely difficult for us to recruit an in-house freshman class of 18 new members and fails to recognize that high school seniors have yet to graduate and thus are not thinking about visiting Beta Sigma Psi or finalizing their decision to join. We have determined that it would be financially irresponsible for us to move 18 new members into the Chapter at a \$5,700 discount (doing so would equate to a \$102,000 annual loss of income, roughly 25% of the combined annual income for the active and alumni Chapters).

As a unified group, the active members and alumni are hard at work on countermeasures to this unfortunate policy change and its consequences. Those efforts are focused on moving the recruitment process earlier into the year and getting more people involved to lighten the load. We intend to offer \$500 discounts to freshmen who sign with Beta Sigma Psi before May 1, 2019, as well as a \$500 incentive to actives who recruit new members who sign with us before May 1, 2019. (Under this plan, the maximum outlay of discounts would be \$18,000). In order for this plan to work, we need to reach young Lutheran and Christian men who would make great Beta Sigs. Additionally, we are working on strengthening the on-campus recruitment and out-of-house programs to build a bullpen of on-campus members who will be ready to move into the Chapter House their sophomore year.

### How You Can Help

#1: If you know of any Iowa State-bound high school senior Lutheran or Christian men that you feel would be a good fit, please reach out to us so we can contact them now.

#2: Contact your pastors or youth groups to talk about our Fraternity. You can email me or the recruitment chairmen and we can help equip you with brochures and talking points.

#3: This year, consider routing your unassigned ISU Foundation donations to help build our Endowed Scholarship Fund levels higher. That account is #2701227. As is, the fund will yield \$2,000 every year in scholarship money. It would be amazing for us to grow the endowed account more than twice its original amount. Our goal is to ensure that every dollar of the earned interest is awarded to our in-house members as reward for their scholastic and leadership achievements.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter and go Cyclones!

Fraternally,

**Jarod Carl '00**

Alumni Board President

(515) 321-8324

[jvcarl650@gmail.com](mailto:jvcarl650@gmail.com)

## CHAPTER OFFICERS

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**Stephen Sabharwal '18**

Philanthropy Chairman

**Mike Malek '18**

Social Chairman

**Spencer Chinske '17**



## PER ASPERA AD ASTRA

### DONALD BEERMANN '68 HONORED WITH ISU AWARD FOR DEPARTMENTAL LEADERSHIP

For three and a half years, **Donald Beermann '68** has worked tirelessly to improve the animal science department at Iowa State University by not only making significant changes in research and teaching instrumentation and equipment, but also to the department's overall environment. "The award

provided me a great sense of pride personally and for the department. I am immensely thankful for being able to return to my alma mater and home department and be recognized for enhancing faculty support, their capabilities and productivity, for improving animal industry interactions and classroom technology, and enhancing educational experiences for students."

His dedication to the department is reminiscent of the same dedication he experienced as an undergraduate member of Epsilon Chapter. "I learned that members were committed to serious mentoring of new members and young active members to help them become aware of opportunities to engage in campus clubs, maintain academic standards, and enhance interpersonal skills and social graces."

Witnessing Epsilon's leadership within the Chapter and in the Iowa State community inspired Donald to embark on his own path as a servant leader. "The Fraternity instilled a strong work ethic among members. We gained

an appreciation for success through team efforts. When I served as president my sophomore year, I had the opportunity to work on Chapter projects and be actively involved in recruiting new members, which improved my leadership abilities and interpersonal skills."

The lessons learned and abilities gained still serve Donald well in his career, and he encourages alumni and undergraduates to capitalize on their own BΣΨ experience to achieve similar success. "The experiences as a new member, especially maintaining a strong, regular engagement in the Lutheran faith, the mentoring received from older members, and the close friendships formed there all helped me commit to a career path and strive to succeed in that decision."

While the membership has changed over the years, Donald finds the values and quality of members have remained the same. For this reason, he encourages alumni to remember their BΣΨ roots. "It has been very gratifying to see the Fraternity grow and excel in all that the members do. I have met alumni in Ames since coming back to work at ISU that I had not met before. I enjoy these new acquaintances and opportunities to interact and become more supportive of Beta Sigma Psi."

If you would like to connect with Donald, he can be reached at [beermann@iastate.edu](mailto:beermann@iastate.edu).

## Exemplifying the Three S's

### Epsilon Chapter Achieves Top Marks in Recruitment, Academics, and Philanthropy

We have had a fantastic start to the fall semester here at Epsilon Chapter! We had some major accomplishments last semester from academics to philanthropy, and even securing the championship trophy for intramural curling. My goal for this semester is to continue to build on that momentum.

#### Brothers Welcome 25 New Members to Epsilon

Recruitment was successful this summer, resulting in 25 new members, in spite of the elimination of contract breaks with ISU's Department of Residence allowing freshmen to move into Greek housing. Our recruitment chairmen have remained busy with attaining a group of five potential members ready to join the spring new member class, making new promotional materials, and boosting the Chapter's social media presence.

#### Chapter Achieves Top Academic Standing

Near the end of June, ISU released the Greek



*Undergraduate members take an active role in their community by cleaning a local highway.*

community's academic rankings from the spring 2018 semester. Beta Sigma Psi was ranked second out of all IFC fraternities with a GPA of 3.32, an increase of .03 from last fall's average! While we were not first in grades this semester, our members are still proud of the large increase we have seen in our GPA average over the past few years.

#### BΣΨ Lends a Helping Hand

The Chapter has been busy volunteering, learning, and competing in intramurals. So far this semester, Chapter members have volunteered with Gideon, Memorial Lutheran Church, Habitat for Humanity, and a Highway 30 cleanup. Members have seen a presentation from Green Dot on bystander intervention, attended a financial wellness workshop, and hosted a faculty appreciation dinner. This fall, the Chapter is philanthropically supporting Habitat for Humanity with Beta Sig Brunch. All proceeds from the all-you-can-eat breakfast extravaganza will benefit the nonprofit. Epsilon plans on fundraising more than \$3,000 for the cause through the main philanthropy and with money raised from donations.

#### Building Bonds Across the Greek Community

After practicing diligently for the Yell Like Hell competition, Beta Sigma Psi completed a successful showing alongside our team consisting of Sigma Pi and Alpha Gamma Delta. Our team

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*Beta Sigma Psi brothers bring their A-game to the broom ball competition.*



# Epsilon Alumni Connections

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## Exemplifying the Three S's

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hosted a field day social outside of the social nature of YLH practices to build stronger ties of friendship in the community.

While Epsilon Chapter of Beta Sigma Psi has seen unprecedented success this year, it would be naïve to ignore the tumultuous climate that surrounds the modern Greek system. Ultimately, we can shift this perspective by sharing our view on what it means to be a Fraternity man. If you want to learn what makes Beta Sig stand out in the community, stop by the Chapter House at 2132 Sunset Drive here in Ames and have a conversation with me!

Fraternally,  
**Ethan Laughery '16**  
President  
laughery@iastate.edu  
(614) 757-2386

**Attention:** This newsletter is intended for alumni and parents. If your son is still attending Iowa State University, he will receive a copy at the Chapter House. If he has graduated, please send his permanent address to update our records. Thank you.

## Epsilon Chapter Honored for Excellence ΒΣΨ Becomes First ISU Fraternity to Win President's Cup

**B**eta Sigma Psi was awarded the President's Cup by the ISU Office of Sorority and Fraternity Engagement in the spring of 2018. The award is given to the sorority or fraternity that earns the highest amount of points on the Fraternal Awards of Excellence submission, an annual award application that measures a chapter's success and leadership in the categories of friendship, leadership, civic engagement, social justice, and academics. Beta Sigma Psi is the first IFC Chapter to ever win the award, which is only made possible by the dedication of our alumni, active members, and leaders.

## Ready to Uphold the Cardinal Red and White

## Epsilon Welcomes 25 New Associate Members

**Eric Cahill**  
Minnetonka, Minn.

**Dominic Guerrieri**  
Aurora, Ill.

**Adam Klinkner**  
West Des Moines,  
Iowa

**Grayson Leaders**  
West Des Moines,  
Iowa

**Simon Sheppard**  
Elgin, Iowa

**JD Vander Weide**  
West Des Moines,  
Iowa

**Oliver Dies**  
Ames, Iowa

**Timothy Handlos**  
Georgetown, Texas

**Austin Kock**  
West Des Moines,  
Iowa

**Joseph McMahon**  
Chicago, Ill.

**Blake Sievers\***  
Story City, Iowa

**Zach Walberg**  
Urbandale, Iowa

**AJ Gambill**  
Leawood, Kan.

**Brayden Jacobs**  
Polk City, Iowa

**Kyle Kretschmar**  
Lakeville, Minn.

**Jon Meyer**  
Bondurant, Iowa

**Jason Slagle**  
Chesterfield, Mo.

**Eli Zeleny**  
Cedar Bluffs, Neb.

**Brady Green**  
Urbandale, Iowa

**Jared Jones\***  
West Des Moines,  
Iowa

**Tyler Kumsher**  
Garner, Iowa

**Matt Rivett**  
Des Moines, Iowa

**Morgan Smith**  
Lodi, Calif.

\*Legacy

**Caleb Groff**  
Wahoo, Neb.

**Derek Van Roekel**  
Polk City, Iowa