



Epsilon Alumni Connections

Summer 2023



PIPE BURSTS ON CHRISTMAS EVE

Epsilon Chapter Tackles Critical House Repairs

The Incident

Around 7 a.m. on Christmas Eve morning, the fire suppression system at the house called the Ames Fire Department with a troubling error code of “Flow Detected.” Ames was in the midst of a cold spell (the temperature had reached sub-zero levels), and the weather had just begun to warm up.

The fire department was at the house within 12 minutes, and alumni arrived shortly thereafter. We walked in the front door to find a rain shower in the north wing of the Fraternity (the addition that was constructed in 2000). Upstairs, the fire department determined there was no fire, but a pipe had burst and water was gushing into the house.

The Source

Downstairs, the firemen shut off the water flow to the suppression system. They were very kind and helped triangulate the location of the burst pipe to a spot behind the stairwell wall just a few feet above a second-floor bedroom (room 25). The flow of water stopped within 30 minutes of the initial call and proceeded to drain out of the upper pipes after another 30 minutes or so.

During the burst, the pipe spray was concentrated on the ceiling of room 25. The highest water level in the room reached two inches of standing water. It was also actively flowing down through room one, into the front hallway, and on the entertainment room in the basement.

Assessing the Damage

We began the recovery process immediately. A few local alumni and their families came to vacuum up the standing water and move furniture around. We met with ServePro to get on their list for cleanup and called the insurance provider to get a claim started.

The drying process began on December 26. Fortunately, the water was considered “clean,” i.e., not sewer water, so much could be salvaged. In the end, we lost the drywall ceilings, the carpet, and the electronics on all three floors.

Working on Solutions

Repairs took longer than we would have hoped, but as we learned, many places in Ames suffered similar fates. The rooms—including the entertainment room—were habitable by the start of summer break.

The riser build process has begun to return the entertainment room to its previous glory—with some additional updates.

In order to prevent the same issue from repeating, we have cut vents to connect the shaft containing the pipes with rooms 25 and 35. Due to fire code, the stairwell doors must be kept closed, so we hope the addition of space for air to flow will be enough to keep the shaft from freezing.

Having never filed with the insurance company before, we weren’t sure what to expect. The independent adjuster who was hired has been a good help in accumulating our receipts and documentation. Thankfully, we ended up with coverage on everything we needed to pay.

We aren’t stopping there. See the “On the Horizon” article on page 4 for more plans we have in store for our beloved home—and ways you can help!

Fraternally,
Jarod Carl '00
 Alumni Relations Director
 jvcarl650@gmail.com

See how you can help on page 4!

Epsilon Success

Chapter representatives display their hard-won hardware at MEF 2022. From left: Sam Gentz '22, James Creel '23, Chris Sabharwahl '20, Luke Jacobi '20, John “Cookie” Anderson (our house cook), Kyle Mueller '21, Jacob Schulmeister '22, and J.K. Prentice '23.



Want to know more about what Epsilon Chapter is up to?
Look Inside!

Let's Ask the New Members! Why Did You Choose Beta Sigma Psi?

“The opportunities that Beta Sig provides to not only its members but also the community.”

–Justin Brandt

“I liked the Fraternity’s 3 Ss. I thought it would be a good academic environment and a good place to grow in my faith.”

–Marcus Barker

“I saw the opportunities the Fraternity provided to my brother, and I wanted that for myself as well.”

–J.K. Prentice

“I wanted an opportunity to be a part of something bigger.”

–Nick Felbinger

Giving Back and Looking Ahead

Jeremy Carter '10 on Friendship, Faith, and Value of Volunteering

Finding a Place in the Brotherhood

Why did you join Beta Sigma Psi? For **Jeremy Carter '10**, it was a family matter. “My brother joined when he attended Iowa State, so I was aware of the Fraternity early on,” he shares. “It seemed like a good fit for me as well, and I felt comfortable right away.”

Time would prove this decision to be one of the best Jeremy ever made. “The Chapter filled my college experience with valuable skills and lifelong friendships and memories.” As a student, Jeremy looked for ways to lead and give back to the brotherhood. He served the Chapter as social chairman, computer chairman, Yell Like Hell co-chairman, recording secretary, and first vice president.

Epsilon’s Influence

Jeremy graduated from Iowa State with a bachelor’s degree in management information systems. “I am currently a business intelligence developer for American Equity out of West Des Moines,” he says. “I create data sets and dashboards that help the business as it grows. We can provide insights for leadership and enable our sales team to excel.” He credits Beta Sigma Psi brothers with helping him find his passion. “Talking to others in the house and hearing about their career ambitions and majors helped me settle on MIS. I’m grateful, as I’ve enjoyed my time on this career path!”

Epsilon Chapter has made a lifelong impact on Jeremy in meaningful ways. “The Christ-led mission encouraged me throughout college and has helped me maintain and grow my faith and relationship with Christ. I built lifelong friendships that I can lean on and enjoy spending time with. It helped me develop leadership skills and perseverance to accomplish things that are

important for the success of myself, the Chapter, and others.”

Jeremy’s favorite memories with the brotherhood are simple but significant. “Spending time with the guys in the house on random nights and just hanging out was great. My wife was also Greek, so spending time with her and her sorority sisters was a lot of fun. I have fond memories of Pizza Pit and Welch Ave. Station.”



Staying Involved as an Alumnus

“When my family moved back to the Des Moines area, I knew I wanted to find a way to volunteer,” Jeremy says. “**Dan Jacobi '14** was looking to step down from being treasurer, so I took on the role. My favorite part of the experience so far has been reconnecting with the Chapter and those involved on the board. It’s been so nice to have a tangible part in the success of the Chapter moving forward.”

Annual trips, phone calls, texts, and visits keep Jeremy connected with a number of other alumni. “Keeping in touch with out-of-state brothers and local members is just a matter of making time to get together.”

Jeremy and his wife, Sami, have an 8-year-old son named Landon and a dog called Gideon. “I spend as much time as I can outdoors, playing volleyball and golf and spending time with his friends and family!” The family currently resides in Johnston, Iowa.

Volunteering is a great way to stay involved, give back to the Fraternity, and ensure its success going forward. I would recommend it to anyone who’s interested in helping Beta Sigma Psi continue to prosper.



The new recruits (including our housemother) gather for a group photo on Beta Sig Sunday 2022.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

Marcus Barker
Justin Brandt
Spencer Clifton
Andrew Creel *
Robert Dillon
Cole Doty
Nick Felbinger

Sam Gentz
Carson Green *
Justin Hingtgen
Matthew Johnson
Hayden Moore
Eli Pelds
“J.K.” Prentice*

Tyson Prentice
Ray Redondo
Jacob Schulmeister
Steven Wolfe

*Legacy



Showing up ready to work on Habitat Build Day are brothers (from left) Erik Gerdts '20, Tyson Prentice '22, Marc Binder '21, Hayden Moore '22, Jacob Fosse '19, Joe Badaluco '19, and Kyle Mueller '21.

Reflecting on a Successful Year

AN UPDATE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Membership

The Chapter currently has 51 men on the roster with five of those being associate members for the spring. Joining the Chapter this year as philanthropy/community service advisor is **Michael Flanscha '17**. **Jeremy Carter '10** also joined our Alumni Board as our finance advisor. They've done great work so far, and we are extremely excited to keep working with them.

Academic Success

We've seen great success and recognition at ISU for our academic achievements. Beta Sigma Psi was ranked the No. 2 Fraternity on campus with a GPA of 3.40 in spring 2022 and third overall (with a 3.34) in fall 2022! In the fall, we also had the highest new member GPA of 3.32. We have remained in the top five among fraternities each semester and are extremely proud of this consistency.

Giving Back

On the philanthropic side, we hosted a successful Sunset Cookout in spring 2022, which benefited the Puppy Jake Foundation and raised over \$2,200. We also hosted a Beta Sig Brunch last fall benefiting Habitat for Humanity, which raised more than \$2,700. Epsilon Chapter also supports Habitat by volunteering at the Ames ReStore biweekly. We hosted our 2023 Sunset Cookout on April 27.

Discipleship

Spiritually, the Chapter is heavily involved with Memorial Lutheran Church. Members frequently

attend and serve by reading, ushering, playing handbells, and more during the service. Also, the church hosts Friday International Student Hospitality Dinners with the Beta Sigs who prepare, serve, and clean up after meals.

Making Memories

The men competed in ISU Homecoming with Kappa Delta and Tau Kappa Epsilon in the fall of 2022 and competed in Greek Week with Alpha Delta Pi and Alpha Sigma Phi this spring. We took home third place overall! We also competed in intramurals, participated in brotherhood events throughout the semester, and attended socials with other fraternities and sororities.

Honors and Awards

At MEF, we took home three awards: the Welge Award for best recruitment program, the Founders Cup for best new member education program, and the Jorns Award for community service and philanthropy. We also recently activated Housemother Janette La Grange as an honorary member. She has been an extremely valuable member of our Chapter, and we wanted to honor her for her service.

It's been a successful semester, and the future looks bright for Epsilon Chapter. We are excited about the upcoming semester and look forward to seeing Beta Sig continue to grow.

Fraternally,
Luke Jacobi '20
 President
 ljjacobi@iastate.edu



Brothers are dressed to impress at the annual semi-formal. From left: Chris Sabharwal '20, David Kasbeer '19, Tyson Prentice '23, Justin Hingtgen '23, Spencer Clifton '23, Marc Binder '21, Andrew Creel '23, Kyle Mueller '21, and J.K. Prentice '23.

Chapter Officers

- | | |
|---|--|
| President
Luke Jacobi '20
ljjacobi@iastate.edu | Community Service
Chairman
Jacob Schulmeister '22 |
| First Vice President
Chris Sabharwal '20 | Chaplains
Erik Gerdts '20
Justin Brandt '22 |
| Second Vice President
(House Manager)
Kyle Mueller '20 | Public Relations
Chairman
Robert Dillon '22 |
| Treasurer
Justin Hingtgen '22 | Assistant
House Manager
Marcus Barker '22 |
| Recording Secretary
Hayden Moore '22 | Assistant
Social Chairman
Thomas Nitsch '21 |
| Scholarship Chairman
Jacob Fosse '19 | Recruitment Chairmen
James Creel '20
jcreel@iastate.edu |
| Social Chairman
Gavin Petrak '20 | Luke Post '21
lpost@iastate.edu |
| Philanthropy Chairman
J.K. Prentice '22 | |
| Commissary
Matthew Johnson '22 | |

Three Goals for Epsilon Chapter

1
2
3

- Earn highest GPA of all fraternities on campus.
- Increase involvement in Greek Week and Homecoming events.
- Improve communication from leadership.



The intramural hockey team is ready to bring Beta Sig spirit to the ice.

Help Epsilon Chapter Grow Stronger Than Ever

SEND YOUR RECRUITMENT
REFERRALS TODAY

If you know of someone coming to Iowa State University who you think would be a good fit for Epsilon Chapter, don't hesitate to send us his name and number! We can reach out to him, or he is welcome to come by the house the next time he's in Ames.

Fraternally,
Recruitment Chairmen

Luke Post **James Creel**
(319) 327-0477 (712) 229-8625
betasigrecruitment@gmail.com



Brothers sport cool shades for the fall 2022 serenade.



Epsilon Alumni Connections

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More Improvements on the Horizon | Donations Fund Future Plans

How Are Most Projects Paid For?

Due to tax laws, funds from the ISU Foundation Housing fund can only be used to fund a portion of projects. This means that with nearly every project, a portion (nominally 50%) must be paid out of the fraternity general funds.

Time for Tuck-Pointing!

After years of discussion and waiting, tuck-pointing is finally happening! After a cold, wet spring the project finally began Monday, June 26. In fact, this newsletter was delayed so we could include pictures of the kickoff. We have planned for this project for a long time, and it will be nice to see it finally executed! This project is expected to be \$46,615 (\$21,955.67 out of general funds).

Landscaping Repairs in the Pit

Around the time of Homecoming, we completed the repair of the dining room wall. Poor construction and water management of "The Pit" resulted in water breaking through our external wall into the dining room. Finding bricklayers able to take on this relatively small job was not an easy task, but the construction was ultimately very well done. This summer, we will work on returning the external landscaping to a workable status with improved drainage. This project is expected to be approximately \$5,000 (\$2,355 needed from general funds).

Deck Stair Repair

Late this spring, the stairs leading up to the deck were identified in need of critical repair. Work is

underway to design a new set of stairs that will cost-effectively bring the stairs up to code. The budgetary estimate is \$30,000 (\$14,130 out of general funds).

Thank You to Our Donors

Our Housing Fund (Account 2702648) at the ISU Foundation is currently well funded to help us execute all of these projects. The general funds, however, could use your help! **As you can see, we have identified projects that will consume \$38,440 of our general fund. If you can help offset these by making a non-tax-deductible donation, please help Beta Sig out by doing so.** These donations are not tax deductible—but are just as critical for us to get this work done. With tax law changes over the last few years, the value of tax deductibility for many people have changed. Use the attached Venmo QR code, or mail checks to Beta Sigma Psi Alumni, PO Box 2362, Ames, IA 50010.

Thank you again to those who have contributed in the past, and we ask that all our alumni consider donations in the future! With the support of our alumni, we can ensure Epsilon Chapter is growing, thriving, and secure.

Fraternally,
Jarod Carl '00
Alumni Relations Director
jvcarl650@gmail.com



Ready to
contribute?

(or to contribute again)



Look
inside
for more