

# Phi Gamma Delta Alpha Iota Fall 2020 Brainstorm



# Presidents Address

Brothers,

On behalf of the undergraduate brothers, I would like to thank you all for your continued support and dedication. We are thankful for the legacy and standards you have left for us to follow and strive to set an example for future Fiji men as you have for us.

Just as the rest of the world in these times of Covid, Iowa State has faced unprecedented challenges throughout the epidemic. From moving into the house following the wake of the derecho, which left Ames with no power for two days, to having the majority of our classes switched to online courses again. We have made it through the past two semesters safe and thriving. We thank our previous cabinet for the way they handled all the new changes with the utmost excellence expected from a Phi Gam. President Carter Wadding, Treasurer Cade Seegers, Recording Secretary Ryan Bissonnette, Corresponding Secretary Matt Listwan, and Historian AJ Beck, we could not have asked for better leaders in such times.

As we move on into the New Year, we do so with hope and determination. With an end to the pandemic coming closer each day, we are eager to once again resume the social aspect of the fraternity. The undergraduates and I are optimistic about participating in Greek Week, and even more excited to meet you all at the upcoming Frank Norris Pig Dinner. Until then, we Press On.

Fraternally,  
Cole Boyer 23'  
President  
Pergé!

## Section Chief Address

Greetings Grads! I hope you are all doing well and successfully navigating this challenging year. I would like to share some thoughts and observations on how Alpha Iota and the fraternity in general are doing from my perspective.

If you were to visit the chapter today, I think you would find a group of undergrads that are functioning at a pretty high level. In spite of the pandemic, they are doing what they can to follow health guidelines, achieve in the classroom, maintain as much of a social presence as possible, and hopefully still having a little fun and enjoying brotherhood along the way.

The virus situation has been challenging to put it mildly. The university shut down after spring break and the brothers had to finish spring semester from home on the web. Orientation and rush/recruitment events system-wide were moved on-line. Pledging across the Greek system was way down. This fall the chapter has been open and vastly different. Masks required in common areas, dining in shifts to keep capacity down, monitoring guests, limited exits and entrances, and guys that tested positive were required to leave the chapter house for 2 weeks. The guys have been troopers, making the best of a difficult situation. I would like to thank the officers (now retired) for their efforts this past year. They certainly had some unique conditions to navigate: CP Carter Wadding, CT Cade Seegers, CRS Ryan Bissonnette, CCS Matthew Listwan and CH Austin Beck.

The chapter achieved a gpa average of 3.53 for last spring. Placing 17<sup>th</sup> among ~ 30 fraternities. The all-men's average was 3.63. They improved from an average of 3.01 for fall '19. There is a good mix of in-state & out-of-state members. The majority are business & engineering students. Total membership hovers around 100 the last few years. As I noted rush numbers are down. They are making a big push for this spring. If you have a young man to recommend. Please contact the rush chair before the middle of January. The university likes to scare guys into signing dorm contracts early and when that happens, they're locked into the residence halls for the next year.

Your grad volunteers have been affected by the pandemic as well. Paul Dudley, (PL) and Travis Dierickx (BCA) have had to adjust the way they interact with the chapter and are "pressing on" (Travis and his wife, Gray, are expecting their first child in early '21!!!). The association board has been especially busy, having to quickly shutter the house in March. They had to figure out how to open this fall, trying to balance health guidelines and still have a good fraternal experience. Nate Scott, the association president, Lou Filosa, the vice-president, and Bob Larrance, a local board member put in a lot of time and effort to make it work! THANK YOU!!!

The chapter house still looks really good. The renovation work coordinated by Wes Cole in the early 2000s has paid off in keeping the chapter strong. THANKS, WES!!! The brothers that donated time and treasure for those improvements deserve a big "THANK YOU" as well. We all know that guys are hard on facilities and probably in the next 10 to 15 years the property will need major work again. The board retained a firm to explore several options for the future. A relatively small remodel, a bigger project keeping the old section and replacing the addition,

and lastly an entirely new edifice. I personally like the middle option (I guess I have nostalgia for the old part). The board will keep you updated on what is decided. You can also contact Nate Scott directly for more information.

The fraternity in general is doing pretty good considering the environment. Most everything is virtual, no traveling field secretaries. Most chapters doing well, some having struggles. IHQ staff pulled off a virtual Ekklesia and is going to do the same for Academy in January. Brother Tom Waldon was re-elected to the Archonate (Congrats, Tom!). The Des Moines grad chapter had a fun gathering in the metro last February (30 plus attending). Then the pandemic hit, and events are on hold. The leaders (including our own Dustyn Curran) will get us back on track when conditions permit.

Section XXIV has been the chapters at Drake, Iowa and ISU for several years. This fall Nebraska was added back. It will be nice to have them back in the mix. This year, Eric Kvam is sponsoring a section competition. The main categories are rush, scholarship, and grad relations. A cash award provided by Eric will be given to the winning chapter in January. THANKS, ERIC!!!

The planning committee is still working on details for a Pig Dinner in April. We're hoping for the best but canceling and looking towards 2022 is a distinct possibility. We'll make the call either way early next year.

I've rambled long enough. I hope you all end 2020 on a positive note. I Am looking forward to a more "normal" 2021.

Lynn Schroeder, '76

Perge!

# BCA Address

Hello Brothers,

The Board of Chapter Advisors hopes that this brainstorm finds you safe and well as we move into the holiday season!

Although 2020 continues to be a challenging year for many, we cannot help but be grateful for the many gifts that Phi Gamma Delta has given us. In many ways, the fraternity has prepared us for this year by instilling values and beliefs to persevere under any circumstances. When reflecting on the past year, I believe that this couldn't be truer for the undergraduate men in the Alpha Iota chapter. This year has created a unique environment that has allowed the men to come together and build character as they face common struggles in a world challenged by isolation.

Although we do not have many traditional successes to celebrate this year, I believe a notable accomplishment to recognize is that our chapter achieved a 3.53 GPA in the Spring 2020. I am mighty proud of how our undergraduates have persisted in 2020 and I hope that you are too.

Thank you, Brothers, for your continued participation and support of the local chapter. We look forward to the future with you all in 2021!

Happy Holidays!

Travis Dierickx '15  
BCA President  
Perge!

## **What is a Fraternity?**

A fraternity is an association of men, selected in their college years by democratic processes, because of their adherence to common ideals and aspirations.

Out of their association arises a personal relation which makes them unselfishly seek to advance one another in the arts of life and the formal instruction of the college curriculum. They all benefit from the culture and character which men acquire by contact with great personalities or when admitted to the partnership of great traditions.

A fraternity is also of such character that after men have left college they delight in renewing their youth by continued association or involvement. They are motivated to bring their richest experiences back to the younger generation in part payment of the debt which they feel themselves to owe to the fraternity for what it gave them through their formative years.

By Newton D. Baker  
(Johns Hopkins 1892, Washington & Lee 1894)  
Secretary of War, 1916-21  
President of Phi Gamma Delta, 1905-10

## **2020-2021 Cabinet Information**

**Cole Boyer**, President, Political Science, (2023)

Contact Information: [ceboyer@iastate.edu](mailto:ceboyer@iastate.edu) (641-757-1834)

**Adam Runde**, Vice President and Treasurer, Electrical Engineering, (2023)

Contact Information: [ajrunde@iastate.edu](mailto:ajrunde@iastate.edu) (563-590-6512)

**Nick Janckila**, Recording Secretary, Supply Chain Management, (2023)

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**Justin Grapenthin**, Corresponding Secretary, Supply Chain Management, (2023)

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**Ethan Olson**, Historian, MIS, (2022)

Contact Information: [ethano@iastate.edu](mailto:ethano@iastate.edu) (612-889-8525)

## **How Covid-19 has affected Alpha Iota**

The Alpha Iota chapter of Phi Gamma Delta has experienced a great deal of different problems and tragedies throughout its 113 years of history. None quite relate to what the Corona Virus has done this year. Over the summer, a new HVAC system was installed to ensure the air quality throughout the house. New rules have also been implemented to ensure the safety for all the brothers living in the chapter house. These include weekly fumigation, masks in all common areas, guest check-ins, and daily temperature checks. Because the spring semester 2020 was cut short, the 5 spring pledges were rolled over into the fall 2024 class. We were also paired with Alpha Omicron Pi and Theta Xi for this homecoming but unfortunately, all homecoming events were cancelled this fall semester.

### **A New Chef**

This past summer, the chapter transitioned from a privately contracted chef to a company called Greek House Chefs. Through Greek House Chefs, we were assigned chef Sean. Sean has done an incredible job feeding the men with delicious meals day in, and day out.

### **Intramurals**

Due to the Covid-19 outbreak, Iowa State University decided to not host intramurals this fall semester. Fortunately for us, our intramural chair, Nick Janckila (2023), made a way for the brothers to get together and host our own intramurals. Every Tuesday and Thursday, brothers gathered at various outdoor parks to play pickup basketball after dinner. On Wednesdays, participating brothers gathered at the fields outside Lied recreational center to play pickup football. These pickup games have been a good way for the active brothers to get to know the pledges.

### **Pledge Class Size**

The pledge class of 2024 is 15 members strong. Unfortunately, the Corona Virus has made recruitment difficult with recruitment numbers being low for not just our chapter, but all chapters across the country. Adam Pinter (2022) and Antonio Tuminello (2023) are leading the recruitment efforts for this spring.



## Graduating Seniors: Fall 2020



Luke Dunteman, 2020

Luke graduated with a degree in Mechanical Engineering and is currently working on finding a job



Sam Guillemont, 2020

Sam graduated with a degree in Culinary Science and accepted a job at Saputo Cheese in Belmont, WI.



Connor Naumann, 2020

Connor graduated with a degree in Accounting and took an internship at CliftonLarsonAllen while he studies for his master's in accounting at Mankato State University in Minnesota





Jake Raymer, 2020

Jake graduated with a degree in Aerospace Engineering and is planning on going home and looking for different job opportunities there



Nick Park, 2020

Nick graduated with a degree in mechanical engineering and is currently looking for a job



Shane Dierickx, 2020

Shane graduated with degrees in agricultural business and economics and has taken a job at Twin State Liqui-Grow in Davenport, IA



**Eric Gnat, 2020**

Eric graduated with a degree in civil engineering and has been applying for different jobs across the Midwest with plans to be working full time as an engineer in training by the beginning of 2021



**Sam Fritsch, 2020**

Sam graduated with a degree in chemical engineering and has accepted a job at International Paper in Texas



**Luigi Verde, 2021**

Luigi graduated with a degree in marketing and is looking for job opportunities in the digital marketing field

# How to Give

Gifts that are made to the Educational Foundation will support the educational and charitable purposes of Phi Gamma Delta, its undergraduate brothers and its chapters. This includes the Leadership Institute, Alcohol programming, the Blanchard Leadership trainings, Mental Health programming, Sexual Assault Prevention training, etc.

## **Ways to Give:**

**Give Now – Annual Fund:** You can choose to give a reoccurring gift or a one-time gift!

**Planned Giving:** Whether you call it planned giving or estate planning, you can leave a charitable gift to the Phi Gamma Delta Educational Foundation. There are several ways in which to give and options as to what your gift will fund. If you have questions, you may either email or call Ben Robinson, Executive Director of the Foundation, with your questions at (859) 255-1848 ext 133.

The donation page can be found on the top right section of the Phi Gamma Delta Website!



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## National Website

[www.phigam.org/](http://www.phigam.org/)

## **Brothers who have passed Ad Astra**

Robert P. Schenk, '46  
Ad Astra on 4/17/20

Don J. Bottorff, '64  
Ad Astra on 8/19/20