



# The OPEN VISOR

THE PUBLICATION OF THE IOWA STATE CHAPTER OF DELTA UPSILON

Summer 2021

## Expanded Colonnades Board Approved

On June 1, the Colonnades board met via Zoom. Twenty-two alumni participated. The agenda was to review the proposed new Colonnades Board and approve the appointments effective July 1, 2021. The proposed board was approved without dissent. The new board highlights include:

- 21 alumni from six decades of alumni.
- 50% are new to the board
- 5 past presidents are included
- Expansion of from two active board members in the Des Moines/Ames area to ten
- Replacement of one vice president by three VPs with supporting committees to assist in their duties
- A new Executive board of four alumni designated below (\*)

We welcome these dedicated brothers to their new positions:



### Colonnades Board 2021-2023



*President Colin Finn '05\**



*VP House Operations: Kevin Guinan '15\**

- Senior Advisor Facilities/Building Mike Espeset '91
- House Manager Advisor John Kerber '69
- Architecture Advisor Edd Soenke '66



*VP Chapter Advising Hunter Feldman '19\**

- Advising Team Joe Verschoor '19
- Advising Team Chet Kaiser '20
- Advising Team Jorge Romeo-Castro '19



*VP Alumni Engagement and Fundraising Jeff Courter '84\**

- Colonnades Era Engagement Manager Bryan Kinnamon '69
- Open Visor Editor Keaton Mohr '17
- Escape to 117 Ash (event) Manager Tom Rice '78
- Annual Colonnades Campaign Manager John Carson '73
- Estate Planning and Gifts Manager Bruce Becker '75

#### *Finance Committee*

- Treasurer Tom Peters '05
- Financial Advisor Nominee Jim Smith '72
- Accounting Dan Miller CPA

Secretary Nominee Dustin Meyermann

At Large Tom Hansen '79

At Large Craig Foss '71

At Large Craig Vermie '73

At Large Don Larew '63

\*Executive Board

# State of Our Chapter

As a DU alumnus, you know how DU has made a difference in your life and in the life of someone you care about. It helped us learn to work with others, develop self-esteem, serve our community, problem-solve and more. Brothers like you are what drive DU to lead the way in providing an innovative fraternity experience—an experience that puts DU at the forefront of values-based leadership excellence.

At a rapidly changing time when fraternal organizations are under great scrutiny and face strong headwinds, Delta Upsilon at Iowa State is blazing a path that shows how fraternities make a difference. We prove that fraternities are relevant by providing formative experiences that develop skills to carry our brothers through life. We do this by staying true to our longstanding Principles and non-secret identity.

The Iowa State Chapter of Delta Upsilon wrapped up its eighth academic year in May after re-chartering in the fall of 2013. Many alumni have stepped up over the past ten years as volunteers and donors. No one knew how the Iowa State community would respond to DU being back on campus when the recruiting started in the spring of 2011. However, the state of DU at Iowa State today is fantastic! The statistics on the right and below are a testament to the hard work of both undergraduate and alumni brothers. Strong alumni engagement makes a chapter thrive, thank you for your commitment to Delta Upsilon at Iowa State.

Colin Finn '05

*President Colonnades*



*Full Facility at 117 Ash for 7 straight years*

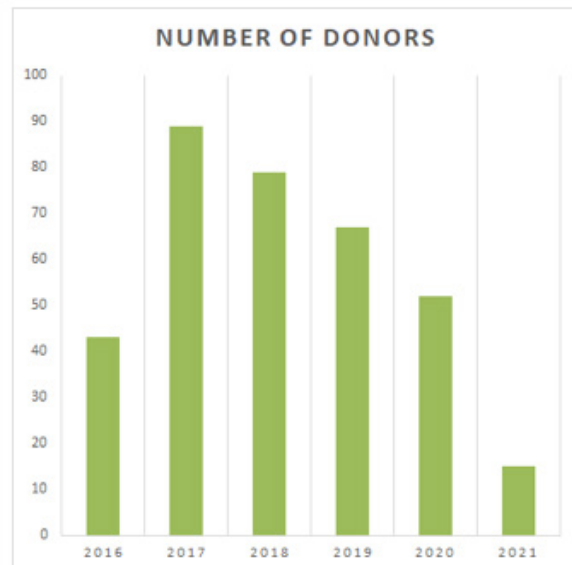
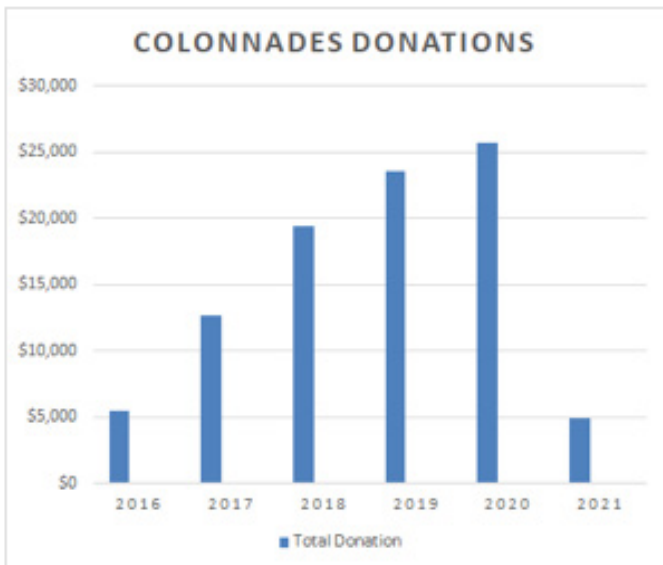


*GPA above ALL MENS AVERAGE for 10 years straight  
6 straight years as a Sweepstakes Finalist (2015-2020)*



*Hosted 6 Escape to 117 Ash weekends from 2014 to 2019 with more than 500 DUs visiting 117 Ash*

## DU BY THE NUMBERS





# Thank You Brother Larson!

Sometimes the actions of a single person can change the course of events and completely reshape the outcome. Brother Jami Larson '74 was that person for our Delta Upsilon fraternity at Iowa State. In 2008 we'd lost our DU charter and faced the loss of our house at 117 Ash. Bank foreclosure was imminent, property tax bills needed to be paid, a purchase offer from the church next door could turn our house into a parking lot, and alumni support was in disarray. It's hard to imagine how things could have been much worse.

Today the Iowa State Chapter of Delta Upsilon is alive and prospering. We've been recognized as a top DU chapter in the country for six (6) consecutive years. We've successfully emerged from a very difficult year with Covid severely impacting brotherhood activities. Several members of our undergrad chapter were recognized for leadership on the ISU campus this spring. We're once again on solid financial footing.

This amazing turn-around would not have happened without the efforts of one brother – Jami Larson. Together with 12 DU alumni he formed 117 Ash LLC to buy the chapter house and renovate it to attract new residents. The Centennial Campaign in 2013-14 raised a total of \$1.25 million toward a total renovation of \$1.75 million. Suites and separate bathrooms replaced study rooms and a cold air dorm. In 2011-13 the house was occupied by a Learning Community supported by

Iowa State. In 2013 the chapter was rechartered. New DU's again occupied and graduated from 117 Ash.

From 2011 until the Spring of 2020, Jami managed the house, advised the new chapter leaders, and acted as treasurer. Younger alumni brothers have now stepped up to take the baton and fulfill all the duties Jami handled. And beginning July 1st, Jami will step down as a board member of Colonnades and take on a new role as Chapter Historian. In his new duties, Jami will manage the Brick Courtyard, Scholarship Plaques, the Archives at Iowa State's Parks Library and he will present each New Member Class with the history of 117 Ash. Jami's priority is to make sure that no DU member forgets our humble beginnings or the rich history and accomplishments of our alumni.

It's time to recognize brother Larson for his monumental contributions to save 117 Ash and return it to its former glory. Jami, all DU alumni thank you, and the 90 new alumni since 2014 thank you. The Iowa State Chapter of Delta Upsilon brotherhood will continue for decades to come, thanks to one brother stepping up in time of need. Here's to brother Jami Larson!

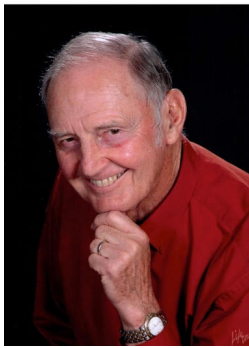
## **Jeff Courter '84**

*Colonnades VP of Alumni Engagement  
and Fundraising*



*Jami was a legacy of his father Jim Larson, a DU member from the class of 1950. Jim passed away last summer. He was a talented artist and painted this picture of our house during the renovations of 2011-13. The front lawn looks much different today with landscaping, the addition of our DU sign and the Brotherhood Courtyard. Jami managed the installation of all these enhancements to our beautiful home at 117 Ash.*

# Dick Frink Recounts His Life with Delta Upsilon



My connection with Delta Upsilon begins with my Father Gale K. Frink and my Uncle Ralph E. Reuling. Both were charter members of the original Iowa State Chapter in 1913. The officers wrote and asked if I would pay for a new Charter after a fire in the house damaged the original and I agreed if they would be kind enough to send me the original. They agreed. When I received it, I took

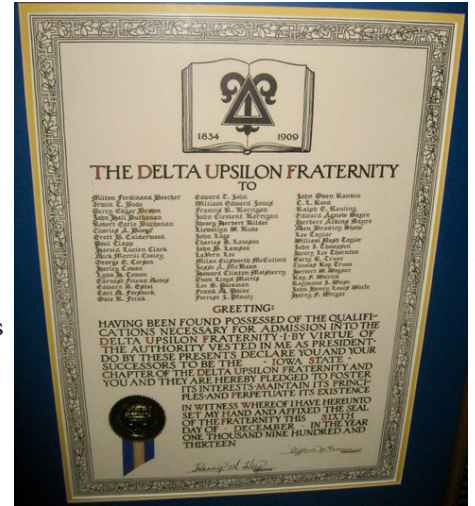
it to a document restoration store in my city of Sacramento, CA. I had it framed and hung in my home office, among other pictures I have of many other DU and Iowa State pictures. One of the pictures is a photo of the class A, DU touch football champions in 1950, of which I was a member and called most of the plays. The win came on the last play of the game with a long pass I threw to "Torp" Rankin, defeating the Beta's. At the time of the 100th anniversary of the Chapter in 2013, I wrote the Chapter that I would be glad to return the original Charter if they wished to have it back and they agreed. So the Charter has now returned to its rightful resting place, fire damage and all.

I really loved being a DU in those years. I pledged in January 1948 enjoyed the years there until graduation in August 1951. I loved the exchanges with the sororities and the late night serenades for the couples that became "pinned." Sinphonia sing was always an annual challenge but the relationships and friendships have spanned the years. My best friend, Norm Brown, was responsible for getting my wife of 65 years and

I together as I was the best man at his wedding and she was a sorority sister of Norm's wife Ruth. Over the years Norm and I and our families were together many times. We both went into the service in 1951. I went on to become a doctor and Norm flew supplies to our troops in Vietnam. We shared holidays with our families later when he was stationed in the San Francisco Bay Area and I was in medical practice in Sacramento. Norm later moved to Normal, IL and we visit there on occasion.

As I think back about my years at ISU and the years as a DU, these were my best years as a young man trying to find my way in the world. A day doesn't go by that I am reminded of those years and I bring up memories and mental pictures of those wonderful days. My wife, an Iowa State Alpha Gam, still sits down to watch football and other news of Iowa State. The big celebration in 2013 that brought many of us back together was a wonderful renewal of many long ago friends that I would not have traded for anything. Living life to the full is what it is all about and I am deeply indebted to Delta Upsilon.

**Dick Frink '51**



*The original Delta Upsilon Charter for Iowa State University. Dec 6, 1913*

## Alumni Spotlight: David Rios



Brother David Rios, Iowa State '21, will be hitting the roads across the United States in the 2021-2022 academic year to serve International Headquarters as a Leadership Consultant. In this role, David will assist chapters across the nation in recruitment efforts and chapter leadership.

During his time at Iowa State, David served in many roles in the chapter, including VP of Loss Prevention, Social

Chair, and as a committee member for Philanthropy and Recruitment. He also attended many programs put on by IHQ,

including RLA three times and LI twice. His commitments extended outside of academics and DU, including being on the board for his dorm floor government, a Business Multicultural Student Liason, a Special Olympics volunteer, a Consulting Club member, a Community Advisor, and more.

What excites David the most about this position is help other DU chapters find exceptional members and to help others create meaningful bonds with brothers and Delta Upsilon itself. "I am fortunate enough to continue building better men, not only in the greatest place on Earth (Ames) but across the country," says David about this new opportunity. Look to connect with David about his experience in the future!



# A Word from President Nick Lee

The last semester at Iowa State has been full of new experiences, hard work, success stories, and an eager mindset. As we have been able to slowly move out of the era of COVID-19 and into a college experience that some have known and others have looked forward to, we can look back on how things have changed this semester. One of the big differences this semester was Greek Week. With a low case count at Iowa State and hard work from the school, we were able to once again experience Greek Week. For the freshman and sophomore class, this was the first Greek Week they had taken part of.

Another new experience for the younger members was our spring philanthropy event. Organized by our VP of External Relations Brady Eberline '23 and our head of philanthropy Ethan Akkawi '21, the older and younger members were able to come together to bring back our traditional philanthropy as well as incorporate new ideas that adapted to our current needs. Even with COVID-19, we were able to hold one of our most successful spring philanthropy events in recent years.

One of the big success stories that we had this semester was in recruitment. Thanks to VP of Recruitment Brenden Ball '24, along with efforts from our previous executive board and the chapter, we were able to recruit and initiate eight new members into our brotherhood even as we saw an overall dip in interest in Greek life during COVID, breaking expectations. Our VP of New Member Education Charlie Hobbs spearheaded the efforts to initiate these new members. Because of the good spring weather, we were able to hold initiation on the South Campanile Lawn mid-April with a charge given by brother Jim Doolittle, '06.

While we were able to experience a more normal looking semester, we still knew that success would not be found without hard work. We saw this in our academics through study hours and watching lecture videos that we typically see, but we also saw hard work in promoting brotherhood. This was evident in finding safe brotherhood activities such as a bowling night that VP of Member Education Ryan Poppert '24 put on, or a simple bonfire that we would have on the patio at 117 Ash. We also saw success through the school. In April, the annual Sorority and Fraternity Engagement awards were given out and along with awards in academics and merit given to the chapter, individual awards went out to brother Graham Owen '21 and to our graduate advisor McKinley Paratore.

This semester and especially this year was not normal, and we knew that it would not be going into it. We were not sure how everything would work or what we would get to do. However, even with all the changes, we ended the year with our heads held high and new memories that cannot be replaced. As we say goodbye to graduating seniors, we look forward to what life at Iowa State will look like next year as the school continues to become normal again. We have shown that we can handle a lot more than we may have originally thought, and we can rest easy as we go into the summer months and look forward to a new year.



*David Olsen, Joe Schoenecker, Ben Frieberg, and Sean Owens take a brotherhood moment after working on philanthropy project*

**Nick Lee '23**  
President

## Colonnades Club 2021 Supports our DU Chapter

The Colonnades Club has already received donations from 17 loyal alumni in 2021. We are at 26% of our annual goal. We encourage you to visit our campaign site to learn how Colonnades supports our chapter and see the brothers who have donated.

We urge you to add your support for our chapter. You may contribute via credit card on-line or use the donation card and envelope coming with the mailed Open Visor.

<https://www.memberplanet.com/campaign/iastatedu/colonnadesclub2021>

# A Successful Spring Semester Despite the Pandemic

We all know that since the beginning of the pandemic, life has been anything but normal. However, certain aspects of student life have slowly returned to normality this spring semester. Classes moved to hybrid formats as opposed to all online classes, students began to get vaccinated, and activities were being held with COVID restrictions. At the Iowa State Chapter of Delta Upsilon, we have made the most of our spring semester.

Our annual philanthropy every spring, DU Donuts, took place on April 7th. The event was a combination of socially distanced outdoor seating and a drive-thru option. Even though circumstances weren't like a normal year, we broke the record for money raised from a spring philanthropy in the history of our chapter! The men worked diligently to ensure our philanthropy was a success.

This spring semester, our philanthropy chair, Ethan Akkawi '21, put in lots of work to ensure we had a positive turnout for our philanthropy. Ethan shared "Organizing DU Donuts this past semester presented a lot of challenges. We went back and forth trying to plan a safe and successful philanthropy with many COVID-19 regulations still in place. Thankfully the committee, Brady, and I were able to organize a successful event."

Outside of the philanthropy, we were able to excel in multiple ways despite the pandemic. In April, the Iowa State Sorority and Fraternity Office held an awards ceremony to celebrate the hard work of the sorority and fraternity community and individual members the past year. One of these individuals that was brother Graham Owen '21. Graham was recognized

as a Sorority and Fraternity Member of the Year. This was a well deserved honor for a brother that has given us and the community so much throughout the last couple of years. Our graduate advisor, McKinley Paratore, also received a special recognition for the work she has done for Iowa State and Delta Upsilon the last two years.

The men of Delta Upsilon also received recognition as a chapter for the success we have had throughout the difficult year. We were recognized with an award for our academic achievement and we claimed a spot in the Iowa State Sorority and Fraternity Cardinal Circle, showing that we had achieved between 80 and 89 percent of criteria that our school describes as imperative for successful sorority and fraternities to achieve.

These awards celebrated and showed that efforts to do good things even in hard times do not go unnoticed. While we had to adapt to uncertain times, like many others, we were still able to have success in and out of the classroom. While we look forward to a more normal experience next year, we can look back on 2020 and find something to celebrate and be proud of.

**Brady Eberline, '23**  
VP External Relations



*Juan Neri, Max Weber, and Xavier Lee making coffee that was ordered at our philanthropy project*

## Brother Max Mussell on DU and Starting His Own Company



I wasn't ever sure I wanted to start my own business but my time in Delta Upsilon and at Iowa State fostered a sense of entrepreneurship in me. Shortly after graduation, I moved west in 2018 to start my professional career in technology sales. It was during that time I reflected on the key areas of innovation

we've experienced in the past ten years, from the growth of the rideshare industry to meal delivery providers. The big question became could we have a similar opportunity in the health and beauty space?

The answer came in the shape of Updo, your app for at-home grooming services. Updo opens a new wave of flexibility for both the client and the service providers, allowing members of the Updo community to enjoy and provide services around their schedule and their time. As I

# Brother Graham Owen Wins Prestigious Community Award



Delta Upsilon has been making themselves prominent on campus this year, despite the ongoing pandemic. Each year, the office of Sorority and Fraternity Engagement (SFE) holds an award ceremony for all chapters. This past year, DU and DU brothers won multiple awards, including an Excellence in Academics award and the Fraternal Award of Excellence Gold Circle.

A special award went out to Graham Owen, '21, who was recognized as one of three Sorority and Fraternity Members of the Year. This award is given to members in the community that have gone above and beyond in not only representing their chapters well, but giving back to the Sorority and Fraternity community and Iowa State as a whole.

Graham has been heavily involved in the chapter since he joined his freshman year. Specifically this previous year, Graham served as the head of the Standards Board, a group of upperclassmen dedicated to making sure all DU members are upholding the standards of the chapter, and also the Vice President of Compliance, who works to ensure the chapter is giving back to the community and meeting the criteria set by International. Outside of the chapter, Graham was involved in the Fraternal Values Society and also helped incoming freshmen choose their chapter during formal recruitment. Additionally, he served as VP of Leadership Development on the Interfraternal Council and was a teaching assistant for the leadership class through the Sorority and Fraternity Council. Talk about being busy!

“DU has been a huge help and is the main reason that I received this award,” said Graham. “DU has provided me with great mentors that have given me guidance throughout my time here at Iowa State. I have been surrounded by fantastic men that are always willing to help their brothers out.”

Congratulations to Graham for this amazing award and to all the nominations and awards the chapter received this past year!

**Keaton Mohr '17**

## continued...Max Mussell company

think about Updo's mission and what drives the team, it's really around empowerment. Ultimately, our mission is to build a community around empowering individuals and providers to have more flexibility in how grooming services are delivered. Fast forward to early 2020, and I landed an opportunity to come back home to St. Paul with the goal of turning dreams to reality in building Updo. I've had the pleasure of working with a variety of individuals, from graphic designers and developers to photographers and models. Fun fact: almost everyone involved has been a graduate of Iowa State University!

Without Delta Upsilon, I'm not too sure we'd have Updo. When I started the journey of building the business, the first

group of folks I reached out to were my fellow DU alumni. One example is Max Dugan '20, who was instrumental in driving the photography strategy for our initial launch and announcement. I also believe being a founding father of our Iowa State chapter prepared me for building Updo. When I joined DU in 2013, we were rechartering and building our brand on campus. From daily operations to recruiting, our pledge class had to come together to shape the chapter in a meaningful way. Undoubtedly, the experience we shared building DU at Iowa State draws a strong parallel to the journey of building Updo.

**Max Mussell '17**

The Colonnades

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## Delta U Remembers...

Brother Larry Pearson '65

Brother Larry Pearson '65 passed on May 3rd of natural causes at the age of 79 years old. Larry was a graduate of Boone High School, Class of 1960, and Iowa State University, Class of 1965. Larry was active with Delta Upsilon and maintained lifelong friendships with his fellow brothers. His obituary may be found at: [www.schroederfuneral.com](http://www.schroederfuneral.com)