



# THE HAWKEYE

IOWA ALPHA CHAPTER OF PHI KAPPA PSI • SPRING 2022

## ONLY THE BEST FOR OUR BROTHERS

### *A Word from Our New House Corporation President*

**A**mici, my Brothers! My name is **Mark Easler '86**, and I am honored to serve our Iowa Alpha House Corporation as President. Since this is my first formal communication to the brotherhood, let me start by introducing myself. I was initiated in the spring of 1986 and lived in the Chapter House for three years, then across the parking lot at 435 Ridgeland Avenue for my senior year. I wanted to stay close to the house for fun—and to stay on the board plan with Joyce the cook.

In 2006, I attended an Iowa Alpha alumni trip to Cabo and stayed at the home of **Jerry Nelson, UCLA '48**. Through that experience I was moved to reinvigorate the alumni base of central Iowa. With the help of **Elliott Smith '78** and **Brand Newland '00**, we founded the Central Iowa PKP Alumni Association, which led to a spot on this House Corporation Board. Spring 2020 and the rise of COVID-19 created an opportunity for our team to complete some deep cleaning and minor capital improvement projects. Working with then-president **John Greenwood '00**, I offered my services to manage and coordinate the work needed. When John recognized my passion and joy for managing this project and chapter house, he asked I succeed him as President. With my son **Peter Easler '17** living in Iowa City as an alumnus and daughter Bridget as a sophomore, I gladly accepted, purchased a condo in a Iowa City, and committed to a biweekly trip to campus to oversee the management of our beloved chapter house.

My focus thus far has been providing the best value proposition to the active Brothers who live in our structure by keeping it in good repair, clean, and comfortable. With 35-40 Brothers living in each semester and Kinnick Scholarship operations during the summer, the house gets plenty

of healthy use. I also strive to improve our communication to alumni to ensure you are apprised of the great things that continue to happen on our beautiful property overlooking the Iowa River.

Our enhanced communication will also provide us opportunities to gather our brothers to reconnect with friends old and new. With that, **I'd like to invite you to Iowa City to celebrate our 155th year on campus the weekend of August 19-20, 2022**. While it will be hard to top the 150th in 2017, this event format will be very similar:

- Arrive in Iowa City as students return to campus and the town is buzzing.
- Post up at Airliner for comradery Friday evening.
- Golf at Finkbine Saturday morning.
- Convene for dinner overlooking Kinnick Stadium Saturday evening.
- Gather to celebrate our Nile C. Kinnick Scholarship recipients at Hancher Auditorium Sunday morning.

Our guest on Saturday evening will be Scott Siepker, whose documentary on Brother **Nile Kinnick '38**, will be released the following week. **Find the latest information and please RSVP by July 20th at: [iowaalpha.org/events](http://iowaalpha.org/events).**

I am looking forward to seeing all of you this fall!

In the Bond,  
**Mark Easler '86...**  
House Corporation President  
[mjeasler@msn.com](mailto:mjeasler@msn.com) | (515) 205-6212

## Serving Others During Hard Times

### Two Leaders in Healthcare Reflect on COVID-19

**W**hen **Phil Brown '99** reflects on his time at Phi Kappa Psi and the University of Iowa, he shares that he wouldn't trade it for any other college experience. Through Iowa Alpha, he learned valuable lessons and skills not found in a college classroom, and he has continued to use those today.

"Being able to hold executive positions at the Chapter helped me understand what running a business might be like in the future as well as what it means to hold brothers you care for accountable," he said.

Phil is a Director and Principal Engineer at Oracle Cerner, a health technology company, and the leadership skills he gained at Phi Kappa Psi have helped him handle the challenges of COVID-19 within the industry.

*(Continued on page 2)*



*"In the early days, we knew very little about COVID-19; we know so much more now, and we are going to learn a lot more in the next two to five years. The data that's been collected in healthcare this year is probably going to create entirely new fields of research and knowledge."  
—Phil*

# Serving Others During Hard Times

(Continued from page 1)

“My time being engaged at Phi Psi as well as in the Greek community at Iowa helped form a base of experience that gives me confidence today in the leadership space,” he said.

Reflecting on his time at Oracle Cerner and the many adversities, he shares that he hopes people have started viewing healthcare systems and workers differently; while lives have changed over the past few years and people transitioned to remote work, healthcare workers persevered.

“Like a soldier in a far-off land, our healthcare workers put on their boots and went to work each day in an environment they didn’t understand any better than most of us,” Phil said.

In his free time, Phil enjoys spending time with his wife, Sara, his children, Connor (11) and Katelyn (14), and their pandemic puppy, Joy, a cocker spaniel. Phil also loves coaching baseball, playing golf, and riding Harleys. He can be reached at phil.brown.kc@gmail.com.

Phi Kappa Psi taught **Todd Gengerke '98** that, if anything is to get done, someone needs to step up and take initiative. His career as an emergency physician throughout COVID-19 is no different. With so many experiencing stress, isolation, and uncertainty in their lives, it remained important for people in healthcare to work together.

“There was work to be done expanding treatment capability and improving care delivery

in a safe manner for the patient and for our staff, and we had to step up and get the work done,” he said.

Todd enjoys his job, which has allowed him to help others of all backgrounds in a time of need, and it brings him happiness to think he has made a positive impact in people’s lives. While he embraces his career, it has also brought him increased sadness and, at times, frustration during COVID-19.

“I had the hardest time taking care of sick patients, putting patients on breathing machines, or even witnessing the death of patients at our hospital. While incredibly challenging individually, the difficulty of those experiences was compounded when going home to neighbors and friends who didn’t always believe it was real,” he said.

While Todd and many other healthcare workers have put in the effort to ensure the safety of others, he wants to remind people that COVID-19 and its effect on the wellbeing are not over. He has noticed an uptick in adolescent suicidality and depression as students arrive back to school, patients without jobs who haven’t been able to access their medication due to lack of insurance, along with others.



*“I am hopeful that the pandemic highlighted how important in-person social interaction is to our overall health and hope we will see lifestyle changes to better accomplish this.” –Todd*

It’s in these times that I’m reminded of our Creed; “to give aid and sympathy” to others. Reaching out and checking on each other makes a huge difference, and event could save a life.”

In his free time, Todd enjoys golfing, fishing, and traveling. He also embraces the humbling experience of fatherhood and its challenges. To reconnect with Todd, you can email him at todd.r.gengerke@gmail.com.

## Did you know?

Fraternity- and sorority-affiliated students report higher positive mental health scores and lower levels of depression and anxiety than unaffiliated students. (Biddix, Assalone, and Grace 2020)

## ALUMNI UPDATES

### CHAPTER ETERNAL

**John B. Weaver, O.D. '42** entered Chapter Eternal on May 25, 2021, in Omaha, Neb. John graduated from Shenandoah High School, the University of Iowa, and the Chicago School of Optometry. During WWII, John served as a pilot in the Army Air Corps, flying B-24 bombers in the European Theater. Upon returning from the war, John married Carole Lea Krachel, and they had three sons: James, John Otis, and Joseph. John and Carole returned to Shenandoah and established his practice, where he served patients in Southwest Iowa until his retirement. He served on several community boards during his lifetime and was still active on the Jay Trust until his passing. John’s passions for golfing, hunting, and his hunting dogs were well known. Scoring his age at 90 on the Shenandoah Golf Course was a proud moment.

**Ted A. Gibson '43** entered Chapter Eternal on January 14, 2020, at age 95. He had resided in Anaheim, Calif.

**Paul F. McClain '47** entered Chapter Eternal on July 1, 2021, in Centerville, Ohio. His wife, Mary, wrote: “Paul enlisted in the Navy at 17 and completed one semester of college as an Iowa Alphan Phi Psi pledge before being called to duty. When World War II ended and his service was completed, he returned to Iowa City and graduated in 1950.

Most of his career was spent in Dayton, Ohio, doing marketing and sales promotion for the Mead Corporation.”

**Wayne J. Barnes '53** entered Chapter Eternal on May 24, 2020. He served in the Navy in Key West, Fla., for two years as a dentist. In 1960, he and his wife, Joyce, whom he met as a student at the University of Iowa, moved to Sioux City, where Wayne began his private dental practice. He was a natural leader, both as a member and president in state and national dental association groups. He was also active with the University of Iowa Foundation and Dental School. After practicing in Sioux City for 47 years, he retired in 2007 to a life of a different type of service. He served nine years on the Mercy Medical Center’s board (two years as president), and volunteered in the waiting room of the ICU, making families comfortable. He also served on the boards of Holy Spirit Retirement Home and June E. Nylen Cancer Center. With his kind and compassionate nature, he was an exemplary volunteer.

**James H. McClain '46** entered Chapter Eternal on October 10, 2021. After graduating in 1948, Jim entered the U.S. Air Force. He was awarded three Distinguished Flying Crosses, four Air Medals, a Presidential Unit Citation, and an ETO Service Metal with five Battle Stars. Jim was named a Golden Eagle by the Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama, (Continued on page 3)



# OUR FUTURE IS BRIGHT

## Iowa Alpha Reflects on a Strong Year

Phi Kappa Psi had an outstanding year and continued to excel at the University of Iowa in 2022. As a top five house in grades to a top donating house, Phi Psi remains one of the premier fraternities on campus. One of our headlining philanthropy events this year was the 5K with Kappa Alpha Theta, where we ran to support the Boys and Girls Club of Iowa City. Dance Marathon was a huge success again this year with \$23,628 raised for pediatric cancer patients. At the time of writing, we have begun a fundraiser for Systems Unlimited, which provides services to people with disabilities and mental health needs. Shoutout to **Dennis Winter '24** and **Avery Hanson '24** for leading the charge in an incredible first semester and to **Joey Enea '24** and **Michael Rizk '24** for keeping up the good work through the second semester.



*Michael Sullivan '24 and Tommy Subaric '23 spending some quality time with their moms during Mom's Weekend.*

Mom's Weekend was fun for all members of the Fraternity. Not only was it great for everyone to see their mothers, but we also raised \$4,000 for the Boys and Girls Club through a silent auction that consisted of 35 baskets put together and bid on by the moms of Phi Kappa Psi. It truly

was a pleasure to support this worthy cause, especially since COVID has prevented us from hanging out with the kids for the last two years.

The fellas have had their fair share of fun as well. We rented out a movie theater for the premier of *The Batman*, which had a great turnout. The gentlemen are also looking forward to attending a Cedar Rapids Kernels game; it should be a lot of fun and we are expecting a huge turnout.

We're proud to say that our new members have truly earned their spot in the Fraternity by excelling in the classroom. The class was led by **Nick Moore '25** and **Ryan Riggs '25**, both achieving a 4.0. The future is bright at Phi

Kappa Psi, and all members are excited to continue to grow as a Fraternity and as a brotherhood.



Fraternally,  
**Matthew Riedl '25**  
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Chairman  
matthew-riedl@uiowa.edu

## Welcome, New Members!

**Colin Adam** | Des Moines, Iowa  
**Johnny Buenz** | Edina, Minn.  
**Charlie Corell** | Des Moines, Iowa  
**Joseph Donovan** | Milwaukee, Wis.  
**Charlie Doubet** | Denver, Colo.  
**Morgan Dressel** | Naperville, Ill.  
**Cael Duey** | Grimes, Iowa  
**Joey Gentile** | Arlington Heights, Ill.  
**Patrick Graham** | Libertyville, Ill.  
**Joey Gurskis** | Barrington, Ill.  
**Nate Herkelman** | Peoria, Ill.

**Ben Hill** | Denver, Colo.  
**Mitch Joines** | Sioux City, Iowa  
**John Leonard** | Downers Grove, Ill.  
**Grayson Lottes** | Dekalb, Ill.  
**Quin McNeive** | Geneva, Ill.  
**Nick Moore** | Bettendorf, Iowa  
**Mac Moreland** | Dallas, Texas  
**Tyler Naughten** | Arlington Heights, Ill.  
**Kieren Nichols** | Knoxville, Iowa  
**Justin Pavalon** | Plainfield, Ill.  
**Carson Petrick** | St. Charles, Ill.

**Matthew Riedl** | Des Moines, Iowa  
**Ryan Riggs** | Des Moines, Iowa  
**Luke Sackmann** | Oswego, Ill.  
**Michael Sadovi** | Glencoe, Ill.  
**Oliver Sewart** | Milwaukee, Wis.  
**Evan Talebi** | Minnetonka, Minn.  
**Sam Threlkeld** | Spencer, Iowa  
**Brett Wegman** | Des Moines, Iowa  
**Joe White** | Waukee, Iowa  
**George Wolf** | Minneapolis, Minn.  
**Mason Zweifel** | Bettendorf, Iowa

and in June of 2017, he was inducted into the Iowa Aviation Hall of Fame. He held sales positions with several companies following college graduation, retiring in 1990 and working an additional 10 years as a sales/marketing consultant to the professional beauty industry.

**David R. Miller '57** entered Chapter Eternal on May 9, 2020, living with carcinoid cancer for more than 20 years. He graduated from the University of Iowa in 1960 and served in the Army and National Guard from 1960-65, achieving the rank of first lieutenant. In 1961, he married Sharon, and they made their home in Fairmont, Minn., where David joined his father in running Miller's Fashions and purchased the business when his parents retired. He was active in many local community organizations and served as mayor of Fairmont from 1988-92. David retired in 1996 and moved to Scottsdale, spending summers at the family cabin on Gull Lake in Minnesota. He loved to play golf, ski, read, attend athletic and cultural events, and talk sports.

**William A. Luse III '70** entered Chapter Eternal on July 3, 2018. A graduate of the University of Iowa in 1974, he was a renowned caricature artist who worked as both a freelance artist and at a permanent booth performing caricature artistry at both the Minnesota Renaissance Festival and the Arizona Renaissance Festival for 32 years. In addition to his artwork, Bill assisted friends and other performers as a talent-booking agent through his company, Personal Performance Arts. His company provided live entertainment for parties and events of all kinds, including for business clients that included 3M, Chrysler, Disney, Ford, and

the University of Minnesota. In addition to his art, Bill was a talented musician who built a private recording studio in his home, where he wrote, played, and recorded music regularly with a group of friends. He had an extraordinary sense of humor. He was a genuine friend who became a friend for life once you were drawn into his circle. Bill lit up every room he entered, and he lived life on his own terms.

### ALUMNI NEWS

**Frederick C. Wilson '53** sends greetings from his new home in Longboat Key, Fla.

**Gordon Kelley Reid Jr. '61** writes: "I was a Phi Psi Colonizer and started the chapter at Florida State University (1961-64) and was elected to FSU Honor Court as Associate Justice and Chief Justice." He was a member of Omicron Delta Kappa Leadership Honorary, Gold Key, and Phi Delta Phi Legal Fraternity. Kelley is an attorney and partner with BortonPetrini LLP. He and his wife, Mary (UC Santa Barbara), have three sons, Gordon III, Robert, and James. Write to him at kreid@bortonpetrini.com or P.O. Box 1514, Ross, CA 94957. He can be reached by phone at (415) 457-7999.

**Craig W. Kickbush '78** is database administrator for the Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines and lives in Waukee, Iowa. He and his wife, Katherine, have two sons, Michael and Christopher. Contact Craig at (515) 490-7170.

**Randall Ross '81** has moved to Minneapolis, Minn.

**RSVP TODAY**

**Iowa Alpha 155th  
Anniversary Celebration  
August 19-20, 2022**

*Scan with your phone's camera to  
register and get more details.*



# THE HAWKEYE

Phi Kappa Psi - Iowa Alpha  
c/o Pennington & Company  
P.O. Box 442100  
Lawrence, KS 66044-2100

*Address Service Requested*

PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
MAILED FROM  
ZIP CODE 66044  
PERMIT #570

## Chapter Officers

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| President (GP)<br><b>Michael Sullivan '24</b><br>michael-sullivan-2@uiowa.edu    | House Manager<br><b>Coel Reece '24</b>   |
| Vice President (VGP)<br><b>Anthony Collins '24</b>                               | Corresponding Secretary<br><b>Matt Macek '24</b><br><b>John Leonard '25</b>  |
| Treasurer<br><b>Noah Floum '24</b>   | Chief Marketing Officer<br><b>Anders Fischer '24</b>   |
| Recruitment Chairmen<br><b>Michael Keough '24</b><br>michael-keough@uiowa.edu    | Brotherhood Chairman<br><b>Rohan Shah '23</b>  |
| <b>Conor Wright '24</b><br>conor-wright@uiowa.edu                                | Scholarship Chairman<br><b>Garrigan Morgan '24</b>   |
| Social Chairmen<br><b>John Barton '24</b><br><b>Wilson Giffney '24</b>           | Historian<br><b>Reid Carter '24</b>  |
| Philanthropy Chairmen<br><b>Joey Enea '24</b><br><b>Michael Rizk '24</b>         | Recording Secretary<br><b>Sean O'Hern '24</b>  |
| Alumni Relations<br><b>Mitchell Joines '25</b>                                   | Health And Wellness Chairman<br><b>Dennis Winter '24</b>   |
| Risk Management<br><b>Justin Japlon '24</b>                                      | DEI Chairman<br><b>Matthew Riedl '25</b><br>matthew-riedl@uiowa.edu  |
| Community Service Chairmen<br><b>Justin Peters '24</b><br><b>Hudson Roth '24</b> | Kinnick Scholarship Coordinators<br><b>Anthony Collins '24</b><br><b>Avery Hanson '24</b><br><b>Conor Wright '24</b> |

*While our chapter home remains at 363 N. Riverside Drive, we leverage a processing office with our communications provider, Pennington & Company, headquartered in Lawrence, Kan. This ensures immediate attention to the returned mail, accuracy of your contact information, and best cohesion of our IA Alpha brotherhood.*

-  [iowaalpha.org/donate](http://iowaalpha.org/donate)
-  [phikappapsiiowaalpha@gmail.com](mailto:phikappapsiiowaalpha@gmail.com)
-  [@iowaalpha](https://www.instagram.com/iowaalpha)
-  [facebook.com/iowaalpha](https://www.facebook.com/iowaalpha)
-  [@iowaalpha](https://twitter.com/iowaalpha)
-  [facebook.com/cipkpaa](https://www.facebook.com/cipkpaa)  
(Central Iowa Alumni Association)



*Dennis Winter '24 leads the charge at the 5K run.*

*The freshman class repping their favorite players in front of the Chapter House.*

