

Advisors Address to Phi Eta Sigma

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History is on my mind these days, and specifically, the history and accomplishments of outstanding Iowa students. Honors at Iowa will be celebrating its 60th anniversary next fall, and I have been working with groups of students as well as faculty, staff and alumni, to prepare for the celebration. We're looking at archival materials, conducting interviews, going through old photographs, and creating timelines. If you are part of the honors program—which, many of you are, and all of you are eligible to join—you may have already seen some of the fruits of our labors as we have been publishing weekly profiles in a series called "60 Notable Honorables," two at a time, in honor of 60 years of history. More of our work will appear later this semester as displays are scheduled for the 3rd floor student center and as history related articles are published in the spring 2018 Honors Newsletter.

So history is on my mind—the history of and accomplishments of outstanding Iowa students.

Phi Eta Sigma, the only honor society officially sponsored and advised by the University of Iowa Honor Society, has been around for nearly 100 years, since 1923, on the national level, and at Iowa since 1945. I joined the Honors Program in 2009 and was given the portfolio of advising Phi Eta Sigma. This year's officers—AJ, Ally, Jessica, Sarah, and before Sarah, Zainab, have been a powerhouse of organizational energy. They held three significant service projects, including a fully-booked blood drive in the Iowa Memorial Union earlier this semester, sponsored a series of three professional development trainings for members, and offered three socials. (A fourth one is coming up!)

My role has been mostly to watch in amazement as this team of officers has handled every effort with energy and vision. As a member of the honors staff, I was also able to offer them a for-credit option, to earn honors service learning credit for their work and to guide them in reflecting on what they have learned or gained from it. Based on the laudable success of this group of officers, I anticipate

that honors will offer this option again next year. Officers, you worked hard, and you should receive recognition for it.

Phi Eta Sigma at Iowa is a growing organization. With visionary leadership and an engaged community of members, it will continue to get stronger and more purpose-filled.

What kind of history are we making? Judging by this year's accomplishments, it will be a history worth celebrating. Starting in 1945 on this campus and spanning nearly 75 years, it might be the right time to do just that! For those of you who will be around for a couple more years, let's start thinking about 2020!