

CHI BETA CHI – SIGMA PHI EPSILON

The Red Door



OHIO IOTA OF SIGMA PHI EPSILON AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO – FEBRUARY 2014

Toledo Sig Eps Recognized as a Top Academic Fraternity in the Country!

Ohio Iota has continued its winning streak! Aside from dominating the intramural sports and campus and community involvement categories our chapter was recognized not only as the top Greek organization at UT for its spring semester grades, it was recognized as the #12 chapter of ANY fraternity on ANY campus in the country! The Chapter leadership credits 2 main causes - the first is the Balanced Man program which stresses the need for high academic standards as well as excellence in sports, social activities, and leadership on the Toledo

campus and community. The second is the academic advising and supervision of faculty advisor Jeff Witt. Jeff has instituted a rigorous supervision, review, and accountability system where he personally meets with each member to review their academic performance and then allocates special time, attention, and guidance to those needing extra help. It is a formula whose results speak for themselves.

Congratulations to Jeff, Exec, and all of our undergraduate brothers!

Sig Ep Stromboli Will Be the Biggest and Best Ever

The University of Toledo's top fundraising event is Sig Ep Stromboli. This year it will be held on Thursday, April 3. The brothers make and bake homemade Stromboli from their own secret recipe handed down through the years. They sell them either baked or frozen to the rest of the Greek organizations, UT campus, and Toledo community. You can order your own stromboli for \$10 each and the brothers will deliver it to you if you are around Toledo. Also, they are looking for event sponsors and will include them in their posters and advertisements. Please contact event chairman Dexter Emch at 419-270-0328 or dexter.emch@rockets.utoledo.edu to order your Stromboli or become a sponsor.

ANNUAL ALUMNI AND SENIOR APPRECIATION DINNER

THE BLARNEY BACK ROOM

TUESDAY, APRIL 15

COCKTAILS AT 6:00

DINNER AT 7:00

COST: \$20

Remember to Designate Your Gifts to UT!

When making gifts to UT be sure to designate them to the Sig Ep Scholarship Fund, The Sig Ep Mandula Scholarship, or the Springer Leadership Fund. These endowed funds with UT provide undergraduate scholarships and leadership grants that help the chapter tremendously. The next time you make a UT gift, be sure to designate it to Sig Ep!

2014 – A Time to Plan

Never before have we been in such a great position for our Sig Ep Chapter in Toledo. Fraternal life as an undergraduate can be a huge stepping stone to the future. These men seek an organization that helps them fulfill their college years by finding bonds with fellow brothers and experiences they may never have had the chance to have. As you're reading this, you probably wonder, why did I join? Honestly, the desire to have some type of structure in college life plus the ability to meet other people was a huge reason why we joined. Many went on to marry their college sweetheart and allow their children to "Go Greek."

My most recent experience was an email from **Peter Dannenfels**, who joined Chi Beta Chi in the late 1940s, and was a member when we transitioned to Sigma Phi Epsilon. He reached out to me to help find a lady he knew in college who dated a Sig Ep President. Unfortunately, time had passed and we found out that the person he was seeking had passed away. But he had one thing on his mind; to reconnect to a person he had met nearly 65 years ago as a college student. Peter had an exceptional career and shared some of his success with me. He graduated in 1951, joined a family appliance business, and in time became the advertising manager of General Electric. He eventually started his own company, which he ran for 30 years. He married and had five children. He developed a keen interest in radio controlled cars. He would love to hear from you. Contact me if you desire his email. But my point...Peter, after nearly 70 years, reached out to find someone who he wondered about; a connection he made with a sorority girl at the University of Toledo. That is what fraternities do...they allow you the opportunity to meet new people and save those experiences in your heart for the rest of your life.

Sig Ep is blessed with good people! Kay and Dick Bensman took the time to honor our members from the Toledo area by setting up a scholarship fund for them at UT. To date, we have been able to honor their wishes with over \$5000 in scholarships granted. Dick Springer, our honorable Chi Beta Treasurer (who, by the way, wanted to go SAE) was the first Treasurer of Sig Ep. He gave us a gift of a lifetime by committing scholarship money to help our members attend leadership conferences. Recently we honored our first President, Robert Gates, who transitioned us from Chi Beta Chi to Sig Ep. The Mandula Family gave generously and created a scholarship for our members. After a rigorous campaign two years ago to raise \$100,000, we achieved that goal and the fund is now generating the scholarship money we have been waiting for. Over \$5000 was given out last year from this scholarship alone and there is no one more proud than the parents, for making a lasting tribute to their lives!

So where am I going?? In a few short months we will have our Alumni Senior Dinner. We are constantly striving to make Sig Ep better at Toledo, never stopping to look back but always looking forward. If you have it in your Sig Ep heart, it only takes a few minutes to email me and help. We need help on the board and help to guide our members with internships and jobs. And last the point behind this letter...GIVING. I cannot stress enough how important this is to our future. Sometimes this giving is about money. As Larry Leake (1953 President) told me this past year, "Ted, we gotta get these guys to give while they are still here to give." Now, Larry made that gift and donated to each of our scholarship funds to show his love of our fraternal life and how much he cherished his UT experience. We still need more donations to get us to the \$25,000 goal. We are at 75%, so we need about \$5000 to make this happen. As important as money is, giving is also about other things – involvement, time, connections, and reaching out. It is about our past and legacy, about our future, and most importantly about our present – what is happening right now. Many brothers have answered the call. Randy McCullough, President from 1980, has agreed to help us with this cause by heading up our scholarship program. I would love the opportunity to work with you too! Between the two of us and the rest of the alumni board you can be assured we will do our best to help. Remember, our job is to make the SIG EP experience the best ever.

AND WE NEED YOU!

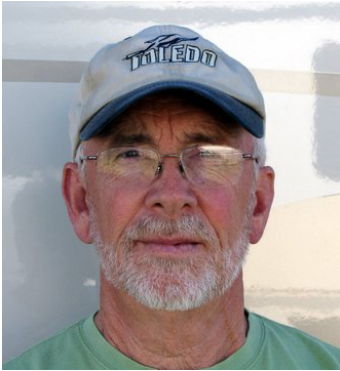
Fraternally;

Ted Behnken, President

Ohio Iota Alumni Corporation

Cris Hastin Honored for Long-Time Service to the Alumni Association

Cris Hastin, who pledged in the fall of 1968, will be recognized for his significant and long-term service to the Alumni Association at the annual dinner on April 15. Chris was born and raised in Toledo and graduated from Whitmer High School in 1966. As an undergraduate, he started the Golden Heart



Chapter. As an alumni he served on the alumni housing board which was the predecessor to the Alumni Association. He was one of the first presidents of the Association and has attended many of our events through the years, lending support and guidance along the way.

Cris lives in Sylvania with his wife LeAnna. They have one daughter, Mindy. He is a proud veteran of the US Navy and has worked for Colgate Palmolive throughout his career and is a member of their Hall of Fame. His leisure time interests all involve speed! He sails competitively, flies RC planes, and cruises around in his 1973 Corvette.

The alumni association is proud to honor Cris and thank him for his lifetime of service.

Past President David Gonzales Hits the College Speaking Circuit

David “Gonzo” Gonzales, chapter president in 2009 is in his masters program for college student personnel at Capital University in Columbus, Ohio. He started his program at BGSU (sometimes you have to start at the bottom) where he was also an advisor to the Sig Ep Ohio Kappa chapter. He has been a featured speaker on the uses and mis-uses of social media at both the Sig Ep Carlson Leadership Academy in Chicago and also at a UT Greek student symposium coordinated by Sig Ep alumnus Greg Smith. David is making a name for himself in social media applications as well as organization and leadership in Greek organizations, and higher education as a whole.

John C. Myers to be Inducted into Ohio Iota Founder’s Circle

John Myers, chapter president in 1974, will be this year’s inductee into the Founder’s Circle. This award recognizes outstanding service and leadership as an undergraduate or alumni at a critical time in the chapter’s development. Many credit John’s term as president and his following year as treasurer as a key building block in the future success of Ohio Iota. John’s dedication to excellence and his strict demands that the chapter, no matter how big or small, follow suit set the standard for future administrations. John was able to recruit new key brothers into the chapter that carried on and expanded his legacy. In addition, he oversaw the movement of the chapter – physically and financially – from the house on Winthrop St to the one on Dorr.



After college John married Golden Heart Marcia Hanley and together they raised three children – John, Heather, and Kyle. They have two grandchildren, and reside in Marion, Iowa. John has worked in human resources throughout his entire career, with stints at Owens Illinois and International Paper. He recently retired from his position as human resources director at the Cedar Rapids Paper Company. He is an avid hiker and outdoorsman and has hiked several sections of the Appalachian Trail.

Sigma Phi Epsilon Scholarship Report

Funding scholarships for our undergraduate brothers gives us an opportunity to give back to our university and fraternity that we remember so fondly. The benefits we receive by giving are personal and emblematic of the virtues conveyed to us through our collegiate experiences.

But on the other side of the giving are active brothers studying, working, learning, striving and lifting themselves and Sig Eps to higher plateaus. In working with these scholarships, I've had the opportunity to interact with some of these recipients. What great guys they are; very much like the guys you remember in your days. That's why I would like to give you a glimpse of who they are. Following are short bios for Sig Ep Scholarship recipients so far this year.

We're not finished for the year, though. The new Stegman Leadership Award created by Brother Rick Stegman '79 will make its first award this spring. We'll also award two "New Brother" scholarships funded by the Mandula Challenge Fund. Watch for these awards at the Senior/Alumni Dinner. We are also committing \$900 from the Springer Leadership Fund to send brothers to the Carlson Leadership Academy sponsored by Sig Ep National. Alumni efforts will be responsible for over \$8,500 in support of our local chapter and brothers this year alone. You can be proud of these recipients!

Balanced Man Scholarships:

Todd Klewer is from Oregon, Ohio and graduated from Clay High School. He is studying Business Management and Pre-Law and plans to graduate in 2017.

Alec Hambly is from Cincinnati and graduated from Saint Xavier High School. He plans to graduate in 2019 with a degree in Pharmacy and possibly go to law school after that to become a patent attorney. He is currently on the academic committee for the active chapter.

Kyle Boyers is from Sylvania, Ohio and graduated from Northview High School. He plans to attain a bachelor's degree in Science in 2017 and a Pharmacy degree in 2019. He hopes to be a clinical pharmacist in the future. He was recently elected to Exec as VP of Communications.

Patrick Szenderski is from Toledo and attended St. Francis de Sales High School. He hopes to graduate in 2017 with a degree in Organizational Leadership.

Brandon Rosolowski is from Valley View, Ohio and graduated from Cuyahoga Heights High School.

He is planning to graduate in 2017, majoring in Biology/Pre-Medicine. He plans to become a Plastic Surgeon and open his own private practice. He has been Academic Chairman and Sorority Relations Chairman.

Bensman Scholarships:

Christopher Dykyj is from Toledo and graduated from Bowsher High School. He is planning to graduate in May 2014. His major is Athletic Training/Exercise Science and he will pursue a master's degree in Exercise Physiology and a Doctorate in Physical Therapy. He has been Student Government Vice President and Men's Club Soccer President.

Nick Dorner is from Sylvania and graduated from Northview High School. He is planning to graduate in spring 2015 with a double major in Sales and Marketing. Nick is the current active chapter President and was in attendance at Conclave this past summer as they won their Gold Buchanan Cup.

Mandula Challenge Fund:

Mahmoud Awad is from Fairview Park and went to Fairview High School. He is planning to graduate spring 2014 with a major in Pharmacy. He hopes to work at a hospital pharmacy where he would have closer interaction with patients. He is currently on Exec as VP of Member Development and was among the delegation to receive the Buchanan Cup this past summer.

Noah Alcodray is from Dearborn, Michigan and graduated from Dearborn High School. He is a Psychology major planning to graduate in spring 2015. He hopes to matriculate at medical school following graduation. He recently became a new Exec member when voted in as Chaplain.

Remember:

- If you have questions or need help, contact me at Randy@TheMcCulloughs.us.
- This link will allow you to give directly online: <https://give2ut.utoledo.edu/default.asp>.
- Be sure to designate your gift to one of our 5 Sig Ep funds.
- Your gift is tax deductible.
- You can give as much or as little as you want.
- You can put it on your credit card or write a check.
- You can do a recurring gift on your credit card.
- You can be a part of this!
- You can help make a difference!

Chapter President's Report

Hello brothers,
My name is Nick Dorner and I have recently been selected to serve as the chapter's 64th president. I am a junior majoring in Professional Sales and Marketing and graduated from Sylvania Northview High School. At the University of Toledo, I am Vice President of Mortar Board, serve as a Presidential Ambassador and am involved in Levis Leadership UT. I am extremely excited about serving the chapter this year and I am looking forward to building off of a record year in 2013.

2013 was an extremely successful year for Ohio Iota. This past year we were fortunate enough to be awarded a Golden Buchanan Cup, our 6th Buchanan Cup in a row, only one of eight Golden Buchanan Cups awarded in the nation. The Buchanan Cup is awarded to the top 10% of SigEp Chapters in the nation based on an application that includes areas such as grades, leadership on campus, impact on the community, etc. Not only did we win SigEp National's highest award, we were able to win the Trifecta for the second year in a row at UT, this being only the second time it has ever been done. The Trifecta consists of Academics, Campus and Community Involvement, and Sports. This past year we held a 3.34 GPA as a chapter, had over 138 community service hours per member, and won intramural championships in dodgeball, soccer, volleyball, tennis and more. Along with these chapter awards we had five members tapped into Blue Key National Honor Society, recognizing the top 13 leaders on campus. We also had seven members selected for Mortar Board National Honor Society. Currently, there are over fifteen student organizations on campus where a SigEp is serving as president. Our very own Joshua Beekman was awarded Greek Man of the Year, the second year in a row that it has been awarded to a SigEp. Josh was also selected as a Regional Director for SigEp Nationals. Along with winning all of these awards we still had plenty of fun participating in Songfest, the Homecoming parade and numerous other campus activities.

Over the past year we have seen our chapter number increase to 97 men after a fall recruitment class of 33 men. We attribute this large class to the success of the Balanced Man Scholarship process. We were able to increase the scholarship amount awarded for the third year in a row and handed out more scholarships than in years past. We strongly

believe that the effort and funds put into this scholarship help us secure the future of our chapter and we could not do this without your continued support of the program.

With the new year comes a new executive board. This year the executive board includes: Ryan Schropp, Vice President of Programming; Mitch Marnell, Vice President of Finance; Mahmoud Awad, Vice President of Membership; Alexander Wisniewski, Vice President of Recruitment; Noah Alcodray, Chaplain; Dexter Emch, Vice President of Operations; and Kyle Boyers, Vice President of Communications. We recently completed a leadership training session put on by Dr. Clinton Longenecker, who is a professor and Executive Coach to numerous Fortune 500 companies. We look forward to taking this knowledge and the momentum generated by Eric Croak and the 2013 executive board to have an even more successful 2014.

Along with our executive board coaching sessions, the whole chapter has been fortunate enough to benefit from two SigEp speakers on campus in recent weeks. David Coleman, Ohio Kappa '85, who is the real-life basis for the movie "Hitch," spoke to us about all aspects of dating and healthy relationships. Shortly after, the University hosted David Gonzalez, Ohio Iota '11, to talk to students on the positives and negatives of social media.

As we dive deeper into the year we are looking forward to "The Wonderful World of Songfest." We have been practicing hard and are anticipating putting on a great show on Saturday, March 29 at 5 p.m. We hope to see many alumni present. The following weekend we will be taking our formal trip to Gatlinburg, TN, where we will stay in three cabins in the Smoky Mountains.

As our chapter continues to grow, the leadership and lessons taught to us by alumni have become cornerstones in what we strive to be as SigEps. We look forward to making our alumni proud once again in 2014, and it is our hope that the chapter will reach even greater heights in the upcoming years.



Alumni Perspective

My name is Mark Mandula, and I became a Sig Ep at the University of Toledo [Ohio Iota] almost 40 years ago. Each of my three younger brothers also became active members of Ohio Iota over a period spanning eight years, from 1976 to 1984. In looking back at my time spent as an active member of Sig Ep all these years later, I can state that I owe much of my success in life to the values and experiences that helped me evolve from a naive, young somewhat “dorky” kid to a fraternity man at the University of Toledo.

I truly appreciate all that Sigma Phi Epsilon has done for me, and believe that words cannot adequately express how fortunate I consider myself, to have become, and still be, a Sig Ep. As I have gotten older, I now more clearly understand that a great education is one of the many keys to success in life. The years of work, in my case only four [thank goodness] of learning and intellectual discovery resulted in me receiving an undergraduate Degree in Finance and eventually an MBA also. But to think that any degree guarantees you a job or a successful career would be a huge mistake. It serves as only a foundation on which every single one of us fortunate enough to go to college then can start to build a career.

There were numerous points in my college education that I wondered if it was all worthwhile; the studying, balancing working and school and being an active member of the University community and Sig Ep at the same time. I believe now more than ever that a great education has always been, and will be even more so in the 21st Century, the key to prosperity, to personal achievement and to societal well being. I am not alone in saying this: in the words of H.G. Wells author of “The Time Machine” and a man who foresaw the future: “Human history becomes more and more a race between education and catastrophe” or going back even further, the Greek philosopher Aristotle “Education is the best provision for old age.”

My wife and I have been blessed with three children, all of whom are currently in college. I marvel at how “grown up” they are, and I often wonder about what kind of world they will compete in, raise children in, and live in. Unfortunately, I think we all don’t take the time to think about or reflect on topics like this, as we grind through daily life, get overloaded by text messages or email, and other distractions. And yet these are exactly the topics we need to be openly and objectively discussing with our political, social, business, educational and Greek leaders.

Knowledge is, and will be the driver of the economy of the 21st century. I believe that regardless of the career path I would have chosen 35 years ago, the skills I learned as a Sig Ep prepared me for the future; and in fact, served as the foundation for me not only survive, but inspired me to never be satisfied with anything less than my best effort on a daily basis.

I would respectfully suggest that the most important single thing I learned more than 35 years ago as a Sig Ep is that this is your life, and whatever you make of it, is up to you.

Sigma Phi Epsilon provided me with foundation to lead a Balanced Life, as a “Balanced Man.” Back then, we didn’t even know what a “Balanced Man” was. But by choosing to use our collective and individual talents wisely, living a life that was “spirit healthy, body healthy,” we embraced the essence of the Balanced Man in full.

Every member of Sigma Phi Epsilon knows that “Spirit healthy, body healthy” is a concept that was revered by the ancient Greeks. I believe that Sigma Phi Epsilon has provided every single member of the Fraternity any opportunity to use, live, seize this philosophy in all aspect of their lives. Each man who joins Sigma Phi Epsilon can become a “Balanced Man.” So do, some do not, and again, this choice is theirs and their alone.

So what are these skills that I believe you need to learn, use, hone in all facets of our lives?

1. A Balanced Man is not average or mediocre. He excels in every facet of life. He is a leader, committed to helping others and guiding the way to a better world. This can be in his Chapter, in the classroom, on the athletic field, in his church or place of worship.

2. He is a scholar, who recognizes the importance of academic excellence for success.

3. He is an athlete who understands that physical activity develops a man’s potential.

4. And finally, and perhaps most importantly, the Balanced Man is a gentleman, who has concern and care for others, whether in an academic or social setting. For to be labeled a true “gentleman” is the highest compliment we can be paid by our peers. A gentleman respects himself and others, and treats them accordingly.

I believe that each of us has the opportunity on a daily basis to make a difference in the world. It is up to us members of Sigma Phi Epsilon to serve as examples in our families, offices, churches, organizations we

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One of Toledo's Top Entertainers

Mike Robarge Given Career Achievement Award

Mike Robarge, who served two years as chapter rush chairman and was the Greek Week King, will be honored at the annual dinner as this year's career achievement award



recipient. Two weeks after graduation he joined the singing group "The Villagers" and never looked back. They started performing four nights a week at the Poison Apple club in Detroit and eventually settled at their long time home in Maumee called Friar Tucks where they continued to entertain their wide fan base

until 1981. Their popularity has never dimmed as they took their act on the road from that time and have lasted through today. "The Villagers" with Mike as their comedic front man have brought songs and laughter to generations of fans throughout the area.

In addition to music Mike has been deeply involved with education and community service. He is a past board member of the Toledo Day Nursery, Maumee Chamber of Commerce, Family and Child Abuse Prevention Center, and Perrysburg Youth Soccer Association, as well as being a two-time chairman of the Toledo Zoo's popular "Zoo-To-Do" fundraising event.

Mike is married to his wife of over 40 years, Sherie, and has two daughters, Elizabeth and Abbey. His personal philosophy is "From those who have much, much is expected." He has lived this philosophy and his family, community, and fraternity are the richer for it.

Alumni Perspective... *continued from page 6*

participate in and the communities we live in. We must strive to create a centered life for our families and others. Our primary goal must be to influence lives for the betterment of ourselves and others.

This is achieved by building intellectually stimulating environments in our workplace and schools; serving others "hands on" and setting high expectations and standards for ourselves first, and then others. This is the epitome of the "Balanced Man." This is the true definition of success.

Alumni Profile

Brad Rice

Brother Brad Rice was born and raised in Sandusky, Ohio. He pledged Sig Ep in the winter of 1977 along with Scott Dibling, Evan Kolacki, Randy McCullough, and Mark Harris. He was immediately involved in the chapter but his first love and interest was in campus



politics and specifically in Student Government. He ultimately became president of Student Government after serving his predecessor in that position – Sig Ep Rick Stegman – as executive assistant. Brad was honored for his achievements by being tapped into both Blue Key and Peppers Honor Societies.

After college Brad moved to Dallas and attended Southern Methodist University's school of law. He married Laura Hipple in 1981 and they have lived just outside of Dallas since law school, where they raised two children – Justin who graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a degree in Zoology/Biomedical Sciences and Amanda who received her undergraduate degree from the University of Oklahoma and her Masters in English from Texas State University. Justin and his wife recently welcomed their first child Hudson Bradley Rice. Amanda is getting married this April.

Upon graduation from law school Brad took a job with the law firm of Decker, Jones, McMackin, McClane, Hall & Bates and has been with them for the last 31 years. His practice is primarily construction related. He represents all facets of the construction industry including general contractors, subcontractors, suppliers and homeowners in various construction related matters. He has been selected by his peers as one of the top attorneys in Tarrant County by the *Fort Worth Magazine* for the last eleven years in the area of construction law. He has also been selected a Texas Super Lawyer by his peers statewide. He has stayed active in his community by serving as an elected member of the Colleyville City Council and Chairman of the Colleyville Area Chamber of Commerce.



Sigma Phi Epsilon

Ohio Iota Alumni Association
3523 Kenwood, Toledo, OH 43606

Sig Ep Named Outstanding Student Organization for UT's "Tie One On" Event

On Wednesday, February 5, the University of Toledo put on a special event in coordination with the "Coaches vs. Cancer" campaign. The event was led by head basketball coach Todd Kowalczyk and foundation director Larry Burns. It was staged before and during the UT - BG basketball game at Savage Hall (which was won in convincing fashion by the Rockets), and involved encouraging the purchase and wearing of special UT bow ties to set a world record for wearing bow ties at the same place and same time. Our chapter was named the outstanding student organization in this effort, and was recognized by UT president Lloyd Jacobs during the

game by a special presentation to chapter president Nick Dorner. The Sig Eps had the highest student participation in the event by both percentage and number of attendee with 100% of our 98-man chapter participating. The world record was attained with 517 bow-tied students and alumni all together in the Fetterman Center before the game. Congratulations Sig Eps and Rockets!

