

The Red Door



OHIO IOTA OF SIGMA PHI EPSILON AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO — JANUARY 2013

Remembering Sig Ep

Remember our Anthem...Dear Ole Fraternity... All My life thru ? It's true, many alumni will tell you that the value of our fraternity experience has gone throughout their life, and many of us have wonderful, fond memories....

2012 was a Great Year for our Fraternity, and we continue to build on the success of the past.

To do this, I want to take you down a different path, and ask you to think about what each of us can do to promote our fraternity's success. As many of you have read, the Mandula Scholarship was an incredible boost to our fraternity. It provides us with the needed resources to help our undergraduate brothers achieve in college, and in the process, promote Sig Ep!

In 2012, Mark Mandula approached me with a unique concept: If you raise \$50,000, we will double it. The four Mandula brothers wanted to do something unique, and with their help, we were able to take a \$50,000 gift and make it worth four times as much! Today, we have more resources to enable our fraternity to make a difference for our undergraduate members.

But the story does not stop there. Two other of our alumni were able to do something just as important, and we have two other scholarships that benefit our undergraduate members. Dick and Kaye Bensman (1952) wanted to make a difference for a Sig Ep from Toledo. If any of you know Dick, he is a very wonderful and energetic man, and was very happy to send us his help. Each year, we are able to provide a local young man with a very generous gift to help with his scholarship. This year, Dick and Kaye gave Zach Guenin (2012) a \$1000 scholarship. Brother Richard Springer (also from the class of 1952) gave of himself to do something special for our Leadership. This year, 2013, our first leadership scholarship was awarded to Eric Croak, to help with his educational needs. Thank you !

Added to their leadership was the contribution of many of you giving money, time, and support.

So, how do we all become better stewards for our Fraternity? We each have unique assets that can benefit us beyond our lifetime, and, with forward thinking, the Springers, Mandulas, and Bensmans have provide us with a legacy that will shine stronger than ever at the University of Toledo...a gift of love for our fraternity.

Our chapter is great because we have giving alumni. Not only in financial support, but by the many hours of our time that brothers like Tim Croak, Nick Langenderfer, and Matt Blecke are giving every day. I realize that not all of you can give of your time...but there is something you can do. We have four UT Scholarship funds. A Gift in Recognition of Sig Ep is a nice tribute.

Also, have you ever thought of doing something for Sig Ep, and creating a Legacy? With UT's help, we have done this three times in the past ten years, and we are willing to keep doing it. Give me a call, (419-346-4700), shoot me an e-mail (tedohio@aol.com), or send me a letter at home (3523 Kenwood Blvd., Toledo, Ohio 43606) and let me help you make this a reality. It takes a little bit of our time, but the results are lasting beyond our time.

Faternally,
Ted Behnken, President



Homecoming 2012



Sig Ep's award-winning Homecoming float.



Brothers McCullough, Sopko, Hasselschwert, and Schneider gather at the parade party.



Brothers and guests awaiting the Homecoming float.



Brother Tom Nichols drives for the Homecoming parade.



Brother Jangus Whitner and Sig Ep Sweetheart Molly Steller are crowned this year's Homecoming King and Queen.



The winning foursome – Larry Martin, Tim Scherer, Kyle Mauter, and Chuck Schaub

Homecoming Celebrations Highlight Fall Semester

The weekend of October 6/7 proved to be very memorable for Ohio Iota. Saturday was bright and beautiful and many alumni came back to celebrate homecoming at the University of Toledo and renew our old fraternal bonds. The morning started at the annual parade party where our float was awarded a hard-won 2nd place finish. Many observers commented that it was clearly the best in the competition and questioned the opinion (as well as the independence and character) of the judges. Clearly they had

been bribed or suffered some type of mass hallucination. The debate continued on to campus at the pregame tailgate party.

Game time found most brothers heading into the Glassbowl (while others stood guard at the tailgate) to watch our fighting Rockets destroy Central Michigan 50-25.

Sunday was a dark, cold, and blustery day yet the hearty among us still ventured out to Valleywood Country Club for the annual Alumni/Active Golf outing. Most foursomes actually finished the round while others, namely Andy Conrad, Mark Rogers, Eric Croak,

and Chris Dimando, gave up their man cards and decided that the club house and Detroit Tigers game on TV offered a better venue for the back nine.

The winning foursome consisted of Larry Martin, Chuck Schaub, Tim Scherer, and undergraduate golf chairman Kyle Mauter. They each received a Nike golf hat and a dozen Titleist Pro V1s which were kindly donated by Brian and Brad Towns. A steak dinner followed the round in the clubhouse, where the golfers were able to reconnect with our missing foursome.

Schwiebert Tapped for Rocket Varsity Basketball

For most athletes, high school graduation marks the end of their sports careers. But a few athletes get the opportunity to move on to play their respective sport at the college level. Brendon Schwiebert is one of the most unique college athletes in the nation. Not because of what he did or how he did it, but because of when he did it. This year, Brendon was picked up as a walk-on for the Division 1 Men's Basketball team at the University of Toledo, and he did this as a fifth year senior.

A 2008 graduate of Patrick Henry High School, Brendon showed outstanding athleticism in his high school career but was generally overlooked by

college recruiters. He came to the University of Toledo and joined SigEp in the Fall of 2008, where he excelled both academically and in intramurals for four years. Basketball was something that Brendon always had a passion for and as a junior he joined the women's basketball practice squad in order to help them prepare for games. Three years later Brendon was finally noticed.

After guard AJ Mathew decided to leave the program, Coach Tod Kowalczyk and his staff needed someone to fill the spot. They had heard about Brendon through his work with the women's team and they decided that he would be the best

fit for the men's team this year. In his first exhibition game, Brendon played 18 minutes, scoring nine points, knocking down four of six shots. Currently, he is a strong contender for playing time throughout the rest of the season and he hopes to jump into the role that AJ Mathew had played. From his days as a SigEp to his career as a Division 1 basketball player, Brendon has been able to use his passion and his talent in order to achieve his greatest dreams. This feel-good story shows exactly what hard work and persistence can amount to and we at Ohio Iota are all extremely proud to call him our brother.

Eric Croak Chosen as Chapter's 63rd President

Dear brothers, friends, and families,
My name is Eric Croak and I am the newly elected President of Ohio Iota. I am a junior majoring in financial services. I graduated from St. Johns Jesuit High School here in Toledo and, aside from being very involved in the fraternity, am also a University Ambassador, member of the Dance Marathon Executive Committee, and spent my freshman year as a member of the Rocket varsity baseball team. I cannot express how excited I am to have been given this opportunity and I'm confident that in 2013 we will be able to build on the already extraordinary reputation built by our current brothers and alumni over the past 63 years at the University of Toledo.

I hope you are having a fantastic start to the New Year! 2012 had many peaks, valleys, challenging times, and great accomplishments. The achievements of a brother will never go unnoticed and it is always great to see SigEps doing huge things in their professions and in their communities. As this new year gets rolling, I, along with the Ohio Iota Chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon, would like to wish you the best on all of your future endeavors throughout this upcoming year.

2012 was another fantastic year for Ohio Iota. For the first time in University of Toledo history, we were able to win the Dean Parks Trifecta; placing first amongst all fraternities in Academics, Campus and Community Involvement, and Sports. As a chapter, we held a 3.33 GPA, earned over 134 hours of community service per member, and won intramural championships in football, dodgeball, volleyball, soccer, tennis, and more. At Songfest, Senior Greg Smith was named Greek Man of the Year, and we had three members selected into Blue Key National Honor Society, recognizing the top 13 leaders on campus, along with numerous other brothers tapped into Mortar Board National Honor Society and Order of Omega Honor Society. SigEp has also been extremely well represented on campus, holding numerous executive board positions, including the President of Blue Key, President of the Inter-fraternity



Council, President of University Ambassadors, and Overall Director of Big Event.

In the fall we started off very strong with our Balanced Man Scholarship Banquet. We awarded \$5000 in scholarship to nine separate winners. These winners were chosen from over 200 applicants and they represented the best and the brightest incoming University of Toledo male freshmen. We also held our annual Slip N' Slide event where we built a 200-foot-long Slip N' Slide down the Parks Tower hill. Hundreds of people were there to take part in the festivities. After a great recruitment process we signed a strong class of 23 members,

bringing our roster up to 85 men. As our chapter continues to grow and become stronger so does our chapter house. We recently put \$6,000 into housing improvements including new couches, flat screen TV, entertainment center, projector, custom-made entry rug, study tables, carpeting in the basement and first floor, and bleacher seating for the basement meeting room. The house looks fantastic and as a chapter we owe a great deal of gratitude to the Alumni Board for their continued support in keeping our chapter house the nicest on campus.

As a chapter, we couldn't be happier with how the past year has gone. Current members are excited about the changes taking place, and we are hopeful that this upcoming year will be even better than years past. Great leadership and planning made it possible for us to work on our academics and service, while still allowing us to plan fun and groundbreaking new events. We have been blessed with a great support system from brothers both young and old and we can truly thank you for laying down the groundwork and creating the pathway for success that is so important in fraternity life.

The new year also brings us new leadership within the chapter. Joining me on the executive board for 2013 will be: Justin Walko, Vice President of Programming; Kyle Mauter, Vice President of Finance; Andrew O'Donnel, Vice President of Member Development; Brandon Stewart, Vice President of Recruitment; Ryan Johnston, Chaplain; Lucas O'Neil, Vice President of Operations;

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Mahmoud Awad, Vice President of Communications; and Angelo Iachini, our past president, will be staying on board as the House Manager. As a team, we are extremely excited and motivated to lead the chapter for the upcoming school year. Each year, our goal is to improve the chapter while also improving the lives of our members. This team has stepped up to that challenge, and I am confident that we will be successful in accomplishing those goals.

Ohio Iota has made a lasting impact on all of us, and we take pride in carrying on traditions and standards set forth by our alumni. This year, the current members of Ohio Iota look forward to carrying SigEp to even greater heights as we look to improve on our values of Virtue, Diligence, and Brotherly Love each and every day. We ask that you look for us around campus and around the Toledo community, and feel free to come check out the campus house. Remember, the Red Door is always open, and a Brother is always welcome. Thank you for your unconditional support, and we hope 2013 is your best year yet.



The chapter swept all three Dean Parks Awards for grades, sports, and campus and community involvement.



Housing improvements include new furniture, TV, trophy cases, and carpeting in the living room.



A new custom rug welcomes guests into the chapter house.

The Honorable Donald Petroff to Receive the Sig Ep Career Achievement Award

Judge Donald Petroff will receive this year's career achievement award. Don graduated in 1961 and received his law degree from UT's school of law in 1967. While an undergraduate he served the chapter as pledgemaster and house manager. On campus he was the Greek Week king and business manager of the university newspaper. He served as an officer in the US Army from 1961 to 1964. Professionally, aside from his very active law practice he served his home city of Oregon, Ohio as its mayor and municipal court judge. He is the former chairman of the



board for St. Charles and Mercy hospitals and chairman of their overseeing organization – Mercy Health Partners. He has received the award from the Ohio Supreme Court for superior judicial service and the court commendation from the Ohio General Assembly. Most importantly, he is celebrating this year with his wife Sarianne their 50th anniversary. They have 2 children and 5 grandchildren. Don enjoys his grandchildren's activities, fly fishing and hiking out west, and was the 2012 Ohio clay target trap shooting champion.

Ray Young Honored as Distinguished Alumni



Brother Raymond Young '70 will be honored at the annual Senior/Alumni Award dinner with the Service to the Alumni Association Award. Ray was the last house manager at the Winthrop St. house and served on the housing board during

the entire duration of the chapter's history at the Dorr St. house. He was instrumental in guiding the purchase, management, and ultimate sale of this property as well as being a dedicated and guiding member of the alumni board throughout this time. Ray married Golden Heart Kris Beach in June of 1974 and has 2 children Ryan and Kelly and one grandchild Kensie. He is the owner of DMC Associates, an industrial distributor for cutting tools and gages.

Denny Herrold Recognized as 2013 Founding Circle Member

The Founding Circle Award is given annually to recognize an alumni who has helped build the foundation of the Ohio Iota chapter's long history of achievement. Denny Herrold graduated in 1964. In the chapter he served as pledgemaster, house manager, and president all while playing on the Rocket varsity football team. After college he started in business with Ford Motor Company's management training program and had stints with Allied Chemical, Mather Spring Company, Jeep, and Sheller Globe. In 1987 he and wife Barbara started their own business, the K-O Products Company. They are involved with manufacturing, stamping, and assembly. Barbara actively runs the company now and Denny stays involved working part time. They have 6 children – Beth, Cheryl, Julie, Andy, Debi, and Tom, and 12 grandchildren.



Senior/Alumni Honors Dinner Set For Tuesday, April 23

The annual Senior/Alumni Honors dinner will be held Tuesday April 23rd at the Blarney's banquet room on Monroe St., downtown Toledo, with cocktails at 6:00 and dinner at 7:00. The master of ceremony for the evening will be 2009 chapter president David "Gonzo" Gonzalez. The cost will once again be \$20. Our honorees for the evening will be the chapter's graduating seniors, who will receive their graduation cords, Sig Ep box, and have their names entered in the hoop of steel. We will also announce the winners of the Springer, Bensman, and Mandula scholarships. The alumni

association will honor brothers Donald Petroff for his career achievements, Denny Herrold as a member of the Founder's Circle, and Ray Young for his long-time service to the Alumni Association. Please see the articles in this newsletter on these prestigious brothers. Also, we will once again be conducting the "hand down" ceremony where alumni brothers may pass down their Sig Ep keepsakes to members of the active chapter. Please RSVP to Tim Croak at: tcroak@cfpohio.com and also state if you have something you would like to pass down during this ceremony.

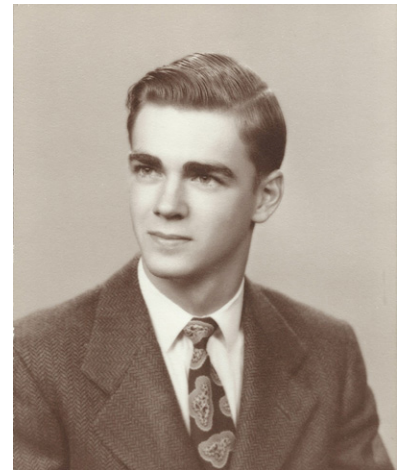
Gates Gavel to be Retired

All 62 Ohio Iota presidents from 1950 to today have called our chapter meetings to order using the same gavel as founding president Bob Gates. It has been passed down president to president, year by year. To honor his memory and legacy at his death, the chapter will officially retire his gavel and give it a place of honor in the chapter trophy case. A new gavel will start this year with the inscription: Sigma Phi Epsilon Ohio Iota Chapter 2013.

Bob Gates, First Sig Ep President at the University of Toledo Dies

Robert Merritt Gates

Robert M. Gates, age 85, died peacefully on November 22, 2012 after a long illness. Resident of Upper St. Clair for over 45 years, he was born in Bridgeton, New Jersey in 1927, the son of Merritt and Ruth Gates. He was the devoted husband for 62 years of Carol (nee Gallup); father of James of Crafton, Pennsylvania, Janet (Jeff Owen) of Winnetka, Illinois and Judy of Farmingdale, Maine; grandfather of Seth and Noah Bosworth; brother-in-law of Sally Lassek of Minnesota. Mr. Gates was a veteran of the Army Air Corps during WWII, a graduate of the University of Toledo with an undergraduate degree in engineering, where he was President of the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity (and founder of his university's chapter), and of Rutgers University with a masters degree in applied and mathematical statistics and a career employee of Alcoa, retiring from management in 1995. He was a past President of The Pittsburgh Club, a past President of the Board of The Early Learning Institute, a board member of the Animal Rescue League and a long time member of Westminster Presbyterian Church. Mr. Gates was an ardent bridge player, marvelous dancer, generous friend, dedicated gardener, avid reader, world traveler, tireless volunteer and talented woodworker. A memorial service was held at Friendship Village, 1290 Boyce Road, Upper St. Clair, PA on Friday December 7 at 3 p.m. Interment was at the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies. Memorials may be made in Mr. Gates' name to Friendship Village/Employee Appreciation Fund, 1290 Boyce Road, Upper St. Clair, PA 15241 or to The Early Learning Institute, 2510 Baldwick Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15205.





Sigma Phi Epsilon

**Ohio Iota Alumni Association
3523 Kenwood, Toledo, OH 43606**

Sig Ep National Conclave to be Held this Summer

Sig Ep Conclave, the largest gathering of fraternity brothers in the world, will be held this summer, July 31 through August 4, at the beautiful Gaylord Texas Resort in Dallas. 1,400 of our brothers nationwide are expected to attend. Our chapter will be going for their 6th straight Buchanan Cup, which recognizes the top 10% of the chapters nationwide and signifies outstanding operations in all aspects of fraternity management!!

This meeting is a great experience and will include workshops for our undergraduate brothers to train on effective leadership programming.

Sending actives to Conclave will help insure our chapter's growth, stability, and achievement in the future, but the cost to attend is substantial. Please consider sponsoring an active for this experience by paying for their registration fee. It should be approximately \$250, which will be 50% deductible and will be credited toward your lifetime giving to the Sig Ep educational foundation. We would love to have a huge delegation from Ohio Iota in Texas! If you are interested please email chapter counselor Matt Blecke at: mblecke@yahoo.com.

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!