

The Red Door



OHIO IOTA OF SIGMA PHI EPSILON AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO — JULY 2012

Spring Dinner Raises \$100,000 in Scholarships Undergrads Sweep Dean Parks Fall Balanced Man Banquet and Homecoming are Scheduled Chapter House Improvements Being Completed

The Ohio Iota Chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon at the University of Toledo is riding a huge wave of recent success. At Conclave 2011, the brothers received their first Golden Buchanan Cup by winning their fifth Buchanan Cup in a row. The chapter has since refused to rest on their laurels. As fall semester went into full steam they took 1st place in the homecoming float competition. This spring they were the top group in the three categories of GPA, sports, and campus & community involvement. This “triple crown” is known as the Dean Parks Award at Toledo and no fraternity, sorority, or other organization has ever won all three in the same year.

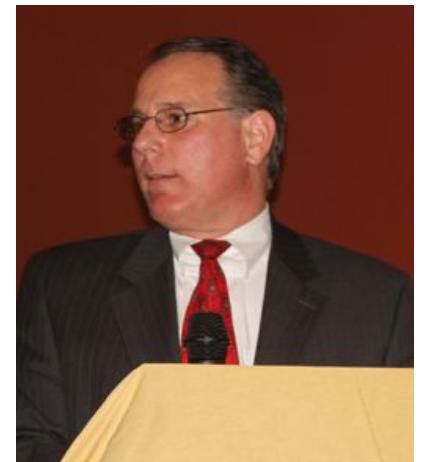
In addition Ohio Iota had:

- 3 brothers tapped into Blue Key National Honor Fraternity representing the top 13 leaders on campus
- a Ruck scholarship winner
- 5 brothers represented on the Homecoming Court
- a brother become a regional director
- a brother win the national competition scholarship
- a brother named the Interfraternity Council member of the year
- still another be named Greek Man of the Year.

The chapter also leads the Greek system in manpower and has the best Greek fundraiser—Sig Ep Stromboli.

HOMECOMING
October 6–7, 2012

At the annual Senior/Alumni Recognition Dinner \$100,000 was raised to support new scholarships for Sig Ep members at the University of Toledo. Ohio Iota alumni Mark, Jack, Tom, and David Mandula came forward with a challenge to honor their deceased parents who were avid supports of the University of Toledo and Sig Ep. The Sig Ep experience has meant so much to the four brothers that they decided to donate \$50,000



Spring Dinner host Dr. Ron Binder



Mark Mandula offers the scholarship challenge to the gathered alumni.

if other alumni would step up and match their contribution. Alumni old and young quickly met the Mandula challenge and raised \$100,000 for the Ohio Iota coffers. The chapter has a strong history of individual leadership in the fund raising department. Fellow alumni Richard Bensman, Richard Springer, and the Mandula family have all been faithful to the University and specifically to the local

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Sig Ep Chapter by previously giving very substantial gifts. The fraternity scholarship fund is now the largest of any Greek organization at the University of Toledo. The following actives were the winners of this year's Mandula scholarship: Angelo Iachini, Brendon Schwiebert, Greg Smith, and Tyler Sommerfelt.

Several alumni and active annual awards were also given at this dinner and some new



This year's Mandula Scholarship winners: Brendan Schwiebert, Greg Smith, Tyler Sommerfelt, and Angelo Iachini.

traditions were started. Brad and Brian Towns were jointly awarded the career achievement award. Brad has spent 33 years in long-term care and is one of the top nursing home administrators in the nation. He was the youngest licensed administrator in the state of Ohio. Currently he is the vice president of operations for AHF Management out of Dublin, Ohio, and oversees their long-term care and assisted living facilities. Brad is married to Golden Heart Jeano Oldiges and has 2 children, Ryan and Kristi, and one grandchild (with one on the way). Brian entered professional sales right out of college and has spent his entire career working with high-end auto supply. He has managed sales teams and been recognized as the top salesman several times.

Recently he retired from his company, Gentek, to pursue other interests. Brian is married to Golden Heart Debbie Williams and has 2 boys, Kyle and Tyler. Kyle is currently serving with the Army as a Blackhawk helicopter pilot in Afghanistan.

The alumni service award was presented to Matt Hagemeyer.



Alumni Service award winner Matt Hagemeyer

Matt was very active as an undergraduate and stayed active on the alumni association. He was very pivotal in giving support and guidance to the chapter, especially after the chapter needed to be

restructured. He was a steady hand in helping the chapter rebound and is a big reason they were able to attain five straight Buchanan Cups.

In response the last *Red Door* several alumni came forward to donate their formal pins to undergrads. Thanks go to Jim Edgeworth whose pin went to Greg Smith, John Myers' went to Eric Croak, Bill Cooper's to Scott Uram, and Rick Hanley's to David Hale. Mike Todak's pin will become the chapter's to be worn by the active filling new executive committee position of residential learning. This year that will be Tyler Sommerfelt.



Career Achievement award winners Brad and Brian Towns

Special thanks goes to Ron Binder who mc'd the banquet and has generously donated wooden SigEp keepsake boxes and graduation cords for every senior for the past several years. Thanks also to Bill Garbe who donated a missing composite and also a great picture of the former house and barn on Dorr St.

This fall's Balanced Man Banquet is scheduled for August 25. This is the culmination of many months of planning and interviewing prospective scholarship winners



Alumni Jim Edgeworth presents the formal pin given to him by his father upon his activation in 1979 to current active Greg Smith.

among UT's incoming freshmen class. The Balanced Man scholarship program has proved to be Ohio Iota's most productive recruiting tool as many of the scholarship winners and finalists end up joining the chapter. The banquet is where this select group and their families come to join in a dinner in their honor sponsored by the fraternity as these much sought after grants are awarded.

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Message from Your Alumni Board

By Ted Behnken '82, President AVC

What a Great Year 2012 is turning out to be. Our Volunteer Alumni Board is working every day to make a difference, and in many ways, we have. The April Senior/Alumni Appreciation Dinner was by far the best event we have sponsored in the last two decades. I remember the Homecoming Dinner Dance, and those were really a great time. Ever since the Homecoming game was switched to night, we have not been able to have a dinner dance, or a great quality event. So we started the Alumni/Senior Dinner, and what an event it has become. Over 150 were in attendance this past April.

Personally, I have been very involved since graduating in 1984, but the first decade of this century was by far the most impressive of any I have seen. Our Chapter is incredible! A Chapter that is first in Grades, Sports, Homecoming Float, and Campus and Community Service, it doesn't happen often! It truly is a pleasure to work with these men, and I am not sure I would have gotten an offer to join today.

My message to our alumni: get involved. This is a great experience, and a time when you can truly give of your talents without regret. There are chapters all over the U.S., and if you want to get involved, ask me or email me (tedohio@aol.com). I will help arrange for you to meet your local Sig Ep Chapter where you live.

As you can see by the other events happening, the gift from the Mandula Family was the highlight of 2012. I appreciate everything Mark, Jack, Tom and David, and their spouses, did, and for thinking of us. It was truly a tribute to their parents, and a great benefit to our chapter. Most Scholarships at UT require a gift commitment of \$25,000, but we have started with less, and if you're serious, email me and I will help. You can also leave a legacy by signifying Sig Ep in your will, and get credit from UT at the same time. If I can help, let me know.

The Alumni Board is working together today better than ever. We are working on improvements to the house, and the new carpet is now installed throughout the house. Also, UT just replaced our roof, boilers, bathrooms, and installed camera's and security upgrades in all houses. It really is a great house, and if you would like to help with this, send me an email. We always need help, and if you have some great connections, we can use them. We got some great gifts



from alumni (personal items), and the legacy shall continue! It's great to be a Sig Ep!

The Board set its goals to: A) Remodel the House and furnishings, B) Get Alumni communications and website working for all, and, C) Find ways of constantly promoting Sig Ep, via gifts, leadership, and donations of time and efforts.

So, thank you to our board members, and those who have given so freely of their hard-earned funds to make Sig Ep grow at Toledo. It's been a great run, and we are still just

climbing that hill!

Last, we were blessed with very good leadership over the past ten years, and we would like to extend our sincere appreciation to Dr. Richard St. John and Dr. Richard Stegman. Thank you for your help in our long term efforts. As our fellow Sig Ep once said, "Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not." —Dr. Seuss

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Homecoming 2012

Homecoming is right around the corner! This year it will be the weekend of Oct 6th/7th. On Saturday the 6th we will once again have the parade viewing party at the home of Tim and Sarah Croak starting at 10:00. Their address is 2545 Middlesex (corner of Middlesex and Hopewell). Bring the kids/grandkids and cheer on the undergrads who are poised to win their second float building competition in a row!

After the parade come to campus and tour the chapter house with all of its new improvements and furnishings. There is new carpeting on both the first floor and basement and new furnishings throughout the house. The alumni association will be sponsoring a tailgate near the northwest corner of lot 10 (where the tennis courts and Ottawa river meet). Look for the SigEp sign. The rockets are playing Central Michigan in the Glassbowl at 3:00 P.M. On Sunday the 7th join us for the second annual alumni/active golf outing. It will be held at Valleywood Golf Club with shotgun start at noon. A steak dinner will be provided immediately after. Door prizes and awards will be given. The price is \$60 per participant. To RSVP or if you would like to be a hole sponsor or can donate door prizes please email Tim Croak at: tcroak@cfpohio.com.



Sigma Phi Epsilon is an organization like no other. Founded in Richmond, Virginia in 1901, SigEp has become one of the nation's largest fraternities with over 250 chapters and 14,000 undergraduate members. SigEp encourages a lifestyle of "Sound Mind, Sound Body" through balanced living. Our commitment to every member's success through an award-winning member development program has made us a pioneer in the fraternity-world.

NO PLEDGING, NO HAZING

As a Balanced Man Chapter, a new member is entitled to all benefits and rights of a full member. New members are not required to undergo a pledge process to "prove themselves," but are simply expected to *earn their letters everyday* by improving the campus community and upholding the Cardinal Principles of SigEp: Virtue, Diligence, and Brotherly Love.

WORK HARD, PLAY HARD

The Ohio Iota Chapter has strived to demolish the "frat-boy" stereotype. SigEps emphasize that we're at college first and foremost to get a degree, but every SigEp also enjoys a social life and an active lifestyle. Sigma Phi Epsilon always will be a social fraternity sponsoring the best events and activities on the campus, all the while still excelling in academics, athletics and leadership. For this reason we are one of the most well-recognized and respected organization on campus.

Some of the accomplishments this philosophy has guided us to:

Highest GPA among all UT fraternities for the past 19 semesters ♦ First place in interfraternal athletics ♦ Four consecutive Buchanan Cups, recognizing us as one of the top chapters in the nation ♦ Membership in many other campus organizations and many members are influential campus leaders ♦ Participation in philanthropy and community service events such as Relay for Life, Dance Marathon, Movember, Songfest, and our own SigEp Stromboli ♦ An outstanding and nationally recognized Alumni and Volunteer Corporation, providing a far-reaching alumni network ♦ Well-maintained and fully furnished on-campus house

SIGEP AND YOU

Some feel that you should do one thing, and do it well. Here at SigEp, we feel that men should be well-rounded - The Balanced Man.

Were you a leader in high school and want to get involved in some of the top organizations on campus? Were you a scholar athlete and still want to play competitively at the college level?

Then you should consider Greek Life and joining Sigma Phi Epsilon. For more information, visit www.sigeptoledo.com, email Jordan Gannon at jtgannon23@hotmail.com, or call 302.893.3844.

Sound Mind
Sound Body

1st in Grades

1st in Sports

Leadership

Brotherhood

Campus

Involvement
Member

Development



DIFFERENT.

Work Hard. Play Hard. SigEp.

The Balanced Man Program

The Balanced Man Scholarship

By Jordan Gannon, Vice President of Recruitment

The Balanced Man Program and Scholarship has truly become a great asset for our fraternity. It is proof that we are truly different than any other fraternity out there, and the success that we have had from it year after year is unbelievable until you really look at each of the members that make up the Ohio Iota Chapter and see what they are capable of.

In an effort to help break the “frat-boy” stereotype among American college fraternities, Balanced Man has become a professional program in which we take a stand against the acts of hazing, and where we take the “pledging process” and transform it into a true learning experience, where truly balanced men are shaped.

This award-winning member development program is the reason we have such a great relationship with both the University of Toledo, and the surrounding community. It is the reason we have had the highest GPA among all other fraternities for almost 10 years in a row. It is the reason that we won first place for interfraternal athletics. It has taken the many eager and bright young college students and given them the tools for success they need to go on to be the chapter that won the Dean Parks Award this past year. Most importantly, it is the reason that we have developed our principles of virtue, diligence and brother love and made them a lifestyle that goes on forever.

The Scholarship

The Balanced Man Scholarship is truly an amazing and innovative tool for recruitment, and it gives us a unique opportunity to meet some bright incoming college students and to really help reward those who have done amazing things in the fields of athletics, academics, and community service. It is an attempt to meet with dozens of kids all over the region that are going to be freshman at Toledo the following year, and determine if they are Balanced Men. This is a tool that we have been using for many years and has been very successful with us.

This year is looking especially promising as we have many incoming freshmen that we are meeting and currently

interviewing. Every year, two BMS co-chairs are picked to help run the interviewing and the banquet which is held at the end of the process for all of the semifinalists. Anthony Strother II and Nicholas Dorner are this year’s co-chairs, and I couldn’t have asked for two more determined or better qualified brothers. Anthony Strother II is going into his sophomore year and has quickly taken initiative in being a leader on campus, by taking on the responsibility of being next year’s House Manager, and other positions in many organizations on campus. Nicholas Dorner is another young student leader on campus going into his sophomore year as well. Nicholas was one of the Balanced Man Scholarship winners last year, and it had such a positive impact on his first year going into college that he decided to return the next year and help run it. Both of these co-chairs are truly a testament to, and the best example of, what the Balanced Man Program really is and how useful the Scholarship program is for us in recruiting. Dozens of the current campus leaders have come from the Balanced Man Scholarship, and many have gone on to become the chapter president, different vice presidents within the chapter, and other top positions among the University including: Blue Key, Mortar Board National Honors Society, University Ambassadors, Student Government, and many others.

After the co-chairs reviewed and looked over applications from hundreds of incoming students, they were able to narrow it down to 75 semi-finalists. These semi-finalists will all have the opportunity to have a current SigEp member or members visit them for a casual interview to get to know them better and review what they have accomplished. From here the

interviewers will take notes and will meet with the co-chairs again to eventually pick about 10 finalists to be awarded different-size scholarship awards at the banquet at the end of the process.

All of these BMS finalists and semi-finalists are a great place to start for the upcoming fall recruitment season, as we in SigEp look to continue bringing in



Undergraduate Update

Hello My Fellow Brothers,

My name is Angelo Iachini and I am the current president of the undergraduate chapter of Ohio Iota. This past semester has been a great one for the undergraduates and I am going to share some of our accomplishments with you.

At the start of the spring semester we held our first Undergraduate/Alumni Board Retreat at the Victorian Tudor Inn. At this retreat we planned ways that the alumni board can help the undergraduate chapter excel even more. We made great progress at this weekend retreat and look forward to many more in the future.

What was planned and said at this retreat helped propel the chapter to many accolades in the spring. At Carlson Leadership Academy, which is a regional conference held every spring for SigEp chapters across the nation, Ohio Iota sent twenty members which is the most we have ever sent. While there we won many awards. These included: Grand Chapter Scholarship Cup (top GPA on our campus), Phi Beta Kappa Wheelhouse (any chapter above a 3.15 GPA), Manpower Excellence Award (largest manpower on our campus), Donald McCleary Member Development Award (given to chapters whose member development programs are considered models for the rest of the fraternity; only 11 are given annually), and the Benjamin Hobson Frayser Chapter Publication Award (outstanding alumni newsletters). Brother Scott Uram was also awarded the Frank J. Ruck Leadership Award. This is a great honor for Scott for all the hard work he has put into not only SigEp but all the other student organizations he has been a part of.

After coming back from Carlson, Toledo held its bi annual Greek Recognition Night. Ohio Iota had

the fortune of finally winning what we like to call the "trifecta." This is first place in all Dean Parks categories: Scholarship, Sports, and Campus/Community Involvement. This feat has not been accomplished in quite some time and it was a great feeling to be able to bring all the gold back to Ohio Iota.

Songfest, one of UT's oldest traditions, was also held this past spring. The theme was "songs through the decades," for Songfest's 75th anniversary. We did not place this year but the night did have many things to celebrate. We had five brothers tapped into Mortar Board Honor Society. They were Josh Beekman, Ryan Butts, Tim Kovich, Brian Rosenberg, and Jangus Whitner. Josh was later elected Vice President of Mortar Board and will be Songfest MC next year. Three brothers were also tapped into Blue Key Honor Society, ARX Chapter, those being Ryan Butts, Jangus Whitner, and myself. Ryan was later elected president of Blue Key for this upcoming year. We also had Brother Greg Smith win Greek Man of the Year. Jangus was awarded the Emerging Male Leader Award and sophomore brothers Eric Croak and Jordan Gannon were recognized as Mortar Board's underclassmen of the year.

This semester was great for Ohio Iota but we have higher hopes for this upcoming fall. We have big events planned that have become traditions at UT. SigEp Slip "N" Slide is held the first weekend before classes start and has grown to mammoth proportions! We also hold our Balanced Man Scholarship Banquet, which honors incoming students for great high school careers. We are also planning on another great Homecoming float with the ladies of Kappa Delta. The Homecoming game is October 6th and I hope all can attend.

I hope everyone's summer is going well and that everyone can be a part of this upcoming semester.

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Balanced Men to further improve the chapter and the surrounding community.

This fall is looking very promising because I have heard great things about some of the BMS interviews so far, and we have a lot of exciting things to look forward to when the new school year starts.

We will be having our campus famous Red Bull: SigEp Slip & Slide within the first few weeks of school, which always brings in hundreds of both new and returning students, and really gives them a feel for what exciting things Greek Life can offer, and shows that in SigEp not only do we work hard, but we play hard as well.

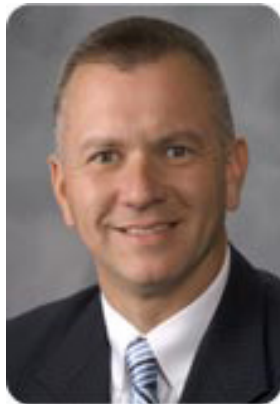
Between the BMS and early recruitment events such as the Slip & Slide it is going to be a really successful year. None of this would be possible

without such an energized chapter who really puts all of their effort into making recruitment better and better every year. It is also amazing to have Brothers who have played huge roles in the Recruitment positions in the past, such as Angelo Iachini and Brian Rosenberg stepping up to help guide this process along which allows us to make it as smooth as possible, by giving me advice on what has worked and what hasn't in past semesters and also holding summer recruitment events such as ultimate Frisbee tournaments and other meet & greets.

Living in my hometown of Newark, Delaware, during the summer (which is about 9 hours away from campus) and trying to manage the upcoming recruitment season and events at University of Toledo is not a simple task, and I know that I wouldn't be able to do it without my fellow brothers back in Ohio!

Alumni Notes

Richland Bank welcomed John Brown as its president and chief executive officer in April of 2011. Brown has more than 21 years experience in the Park National community banking organization, of which Richland Bank is a part. Brown most recently served as president of Unity National Bank headquartered in Piqua, Ohio. He began his Park National Bank career in 1991. Headquartered in Newark, Ohio, Park National Bank is one of the top banking organizations in the state and consists of 11 community bank divisions in Ohio. Its Richland Bank Division has 12 offices in Richland County.



Brown graduated cum laude from the University of Toledo and also graduated from the Wisconsin School of Banking. His past community leadership includes serving as president of the Grow Piqua Now organization, as well as membership, committee chairman, and past presidency of the Piqua United Way board of directors. He was a member and past president of the Piqua Community Foundation board of directors and the Miami County YMCA board of directors. He was a member of the board of directors for the Lehman Foundation, the Piqua Improvement Corporation, and the Edison Community College Foundation. Brown was named Business Person of the Year by the Piqua Area Chamber of Commerce in 2009. He has continued his commitment to community service and economic development since his arrival at Richland Bank. Currently, Brown serves as a Trustee of North Central State College's Foundation, serves on the Richland County Chamber of Commerce Board and is Chair of the Richland Community Development Group. He is married to wife Tiffany and has a daughter Ali who is currently attending Madison Comprehensive High School.

Dear Ted,
Enclosed please find my contribution check in the amount of \$1,000 for the Chapter renovation project. The Chapter has made tremendous strides since our 335 Winthrop address but I must say my Golden Heart wife of over 40 years, Janet Sutton Orlowski and I did have plenty of good time at that location toga parties, etc. long before Animal House made the scene. More importantly however, I am especially proud of the quality of the young men that Ohio Iota continues to attract and at the special emphasis the Chapter places on the Balanced Man Program.

Unfortunately I moved away from Toledo after graduation so I did not have the opportunity to experience, first hand, the Chapter's growth however I am forever grateful to my high school English teacher, Brother Rick St. John, for all his efforts in introducing me to such a great organization and for all his personal efforts throughout the years to ensure that Sigma Phi Epsilon was much more than just a social organization. My sincere thanks to you and all the active brothers and alumni who continue to make me proud to have been a Sig Ep at the University of Toledo.

Fraternally yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Ken Orlowski'. The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping 'K' and 'O'.

Ken Orlowski, '68

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!



Sigma Phi Epsilon

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

Greg Smith Named Greek Man of the Year

Senior Greg Smith was named the University of Toledo 2012 Greek Man of the Year at Songfest. He joined SigEp in Fall of 2008 and majors in Adolescent/Young Adult Integrated Sciences Education. Greg has served the chapter as Sigma Coordinator, Songfest Director, Epsilon Coordinator, and Vice President of Programming. On campus he has been Chairman of Homecoming,



a University Ambassador, on the Dance Marathon executive committee, on the Interfraternity Council, Epsilon Alpha Pi professional fraternity, Blue Key National Honor Fraternity, Student Government, First Year Orientation Guide, Order of Omega, and Mortar Board. Congratulations Greg!