

# The Red Door



OHIO IOTA OF SIGMA PHI EPSILON AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO – MARCH 2015

## Recognition at Carlson Leadership Academy



**T**he Carlson Leadership Academies are held annually in five regions across the US. The purpose of this academy is to equip the undergraduate members with the leadership skills they need to make a difference and to celebrate all that SigEp has accomplished over the previous year.

The Midwest Carlson Leadership Academy was held On February 20-22, in Chicago, Illinois. Ohio

Iota was in great attendance and received many accolades. As a result of Ohio Iota's improvements to the kitchen, high grade point average, and maintaining the largest fraternity on campus we received the Chapter House of the Year, Grand Chapter Scholarship Cup, and Manpower Excellence Award.

In addition, three of our members received some of the highest national awards you can obtain as an undergrad. Emmanuel Delucia won the Frank J. Ruck Leadership Award, which is presented to an individual who shows outstanding campus or community leadership and makes significant positive changes on campus. Alex Wisniewski received a scholarship to experience the Tragos Quest to Greece. A program where only 12 participants are chosen nationally and are stretched mentally and physically during a 10-day journey through Greece in mid-June. Also, the son of Ohio Iota Alumni Bill Bixler, Ryan Bixler of Ohio State also received an invitation for the Quest to Greece. Lastly, Nick Dorner received the Edward Zolligner Outstanding Senior award which is based on outstanding scholastic achievement, fraternity and campus leadership and community involvement.

Congratulations to the chapter, Nick, Alex, and Emmanuel for their outstanding accomplishments!

### Annual Alumni and Senior Dinner

Blarney Event Center - Toledo, Ohio

Thursday, April 9, 2015

Cocktails 6 p.m.

Dinner 7 p.m.

Cost: \$25

Graduating Seniors:

Noah Ibrahim Alcodray	Anthony Robert Martin
Nicholas Dorner	Kyle Joseph Mauter
Zach Patrick Guenin	Thomas Paul McNichol
Tyler J Heck	Lucas W O'Neil
Kevin James Heimberger	Lawrence E Sherman
Andrew W Hofert	Chad M Smith
Dalton P Landers	Tyler C Somerfelt
Kevin E Malak	Brandon Leo Stewart

# Remembering Greg Smith

by Scott Uram

Smith, Gregory Lee. If you ever make your car dance by lightly tapping the brakes to the beat of a song on the radio, stop. Remember the life of Brother Gregory Lee Smith who entered eternal life on Saturday, December 6, 2014, after a two and a half year battle with cancer. Greg was notorious for making his passengers uneasy as he bumped his car to the beat of a song, most notably footloose.

How do you begin to reflect on the life of such an incredible and beautiful person? Greg was one of kind! His charisma, passion, and smile would light up a room and he was one the easiest people to have a conversation with and develop a friendship. Most people probably remember Greg's laugh. It was one of the loudest and purest and made you feel like everything was going to be alright. His sense of humor was delightful and he was very mischievous, always trying to "stir the pot." He cared so deeply for his friends and family and influenced the lives of everyone around him.

Greg joined Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity in the fall of 2008 and quickly took on many leadership roles within the chapter, including two executive board

positions, Songfest Director and Sigma Coordinator. Many younger members probably thought of Greg as a mentor, something of an encyclopedia of wisdom and life lessons despite his young age of 24. For those who were lucky enough to know Greg personally, he was caring, honest, funny, a hard worker, and a lover of life. Greg's true truth resided in his heart, constantly putting brothers before himself and the first to lend a helping hand.

There is a passage from the book called *The Little Prince* that states, "What moves me so deeply about this little prince sleeping here is his loyalty to a flower, the image of a rose shining through his whole being like the flame of a lamp, even when he is asleep." Although Greg is laid to rest, his legacy and selfless light will live on in the many lives he touched. He is finally footloose and free, no longer suffering in pain and his heart shining down on us all in heaven.



---

## In Memoriam

Richard "Dick" William Bensman, of Perrysburg, Ohio and Marco Island, Florida, passed away in Naples, Florida on Sunday, January 25, 2015. He was 84.

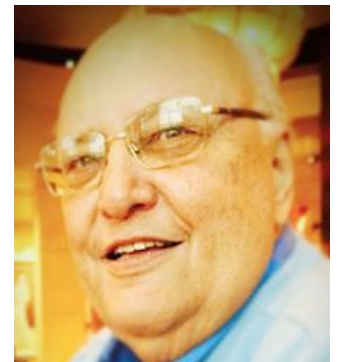
Dick was one of the inaugural members of Sigma Phi Epsilon Ohio Iota Chapter at the University of Toledo. Along with his classmates, Dick helped launch a grand legacy for SigEp that continues to thrive today. His passion for SigEp continued throughout his life even into his final years.

Dick was also an inaugural member of Blue Key National Honor Fraternity at the University of Toledo as it transitioned from its local ARX roots to a national organization. Blue Key has earned a proud and esteemed reputation as an Honor and Service organization limited to 13 undergraduate members at UT.

His long-time association and support of UT and the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity was a source of enormous pride, leading to the creation of the "Dick & Kay Bensman Scholarship for Sigma Phi

Epsilon." The scholarship assists juniors and seniors of the UT SigEp chapter who graduated from public high schools to defray tuition costs. In lieu of flowers, please support this most worthwhile cause. Checks should be made to: "University of Toledo Foundation" with reference to either the name of the scholarship or "1301894" and sent to University of Toledo Foundation, 2806 Bancroft St. (MS#319), Toledo, Ohio 43606.

There will be a memorial service for Dick starting at 11:30 on June 6, 2015 at Hope Lutheran Church located at 2201 Secor Road, Toledo, Ohio 43606. There will be a reception following the service around 12:30 at the UT Alumni Pavilion (Northwest corner of the Glassbowl near Parks Tower).





## Matt Bennett Honored for Service to the Alumni Board

**M**att Bennett, who pledged in the spring of 1988, will be recognized for his service to the Alumni Board at the Alumni Senior Dinner on April 9th. As an undergraduate, he held positions such as fund raising chair and controller. As an Alumni, Matt served as the Balanced Man Scholarship Alumni chair from 1998 to 2000. He helped the undergrads perfect the scholarship program which ultimately led to the recruitment of our future leaders in the early 2000s. He also was integral in the chapter's rebuilding process in 2000 on our journey to a Balanced Man Program Chapter.



Matt lives in Holland, Ohio with his wife, Rebecca. They have two daughters, Molly (13) and Annie (11). He works for Ford Motor Company at the Dearborn Engine Plant as Team Manager over machining operations. In his leisure time he enjoys golf and attending his daughters' many activities.

The Alumni Association is proud to honor Matt and thank him for his service.

## Founder's Circle Awarded to Jim and John Herl



**W**e look forward to honoring Jim and John Herl as our Founder's Circle Award winners at the Alumni Senior Dinner.

Jim and John both joined Sigma Phi Epsilon on May 30, 1965. They also each have sons that have joined SigEp; John's sons, John Jr (Ohio Iota '90) and Patrick (Indiana), and Jim's son, Patrick Fahey (Ohio Iota '87). Jim and John operate Herl's Marina on Catawba Island. John retired after 31 years with the state of Ohio Hydraulics Department and Jim retired from Chemtrol.

---

## Larry Beer Given Career Achievement Award

**L**arry Beer, who pledged SigEp in 1973, will be honored at the annual Alumni Senior Dinner as this year's career achievement award recipient.

After graduating from UT in 1976 with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, Larry went on to obtain his Master of Arts in Counseling from Hofstra University in Hamstead, New York, and received his doctorate in Counseling Psychology from Western Michigan in 1986.

In 1989, Larry founded Child and Family Psychological Services, P.C., which today contains more than 40 licensed mental health practitioners in Kalamazoo and Portage, Michigan. Larry serves as President while maintaining an ongoing caseload focused on adolescents, adults, and couples. He also serves as Adjunct Assistant Professor instructing graduate-level academic courses at Western Michigan. Further, Larry is a training consultant for the Michigan Judicial Institute responsible for instructing probation officers and other court personal in basic counseling skills and other issues related to mental health.

In addition to his practice, Larry has a long list of volunteer activities. Most notably, Larry answered the call during some of our nation's most devastating disasters, serving as a Red Cross mental health volunteer during 911, and Hurricanes Andrew, Wilma, and Sandy.



Although the list of Larry's accomplishments are great, he stated that "balancing his career with family has been his proudest achievement." Larry and his wife Cindy will celebrate their 30th wedding anniversary this March by going on a two-week bike trip to Vietnam. They have three children Alyssa (27), Danielle (25) and Adam (21).

## Alumni Board President's Message

One of the best sayings is "If you build it, they will come," from the 1989 movie, *Field of Dreams*.

Sigma Phi Epsilon started on September 30, 1950, at the University of Toledo. After many meetings, it came down to one vote ... Robert Gates, who, after many hours of decision making, chose SigEp over Sigma Alpha Epsilon. Now, this story can be told over and over by our first treasurer, Richard Springer, who is still preaching that he chose SAE over SigEp, and it is one of his worst decisions he ever made. SigEp has, over the last 65 years, gone through its ups and downs as most chapters do. Yet, if it were not for the courage of these men in 1950 to choose SigEp we most likely would not be in the position we are today.

Collectively, Chi Beta Chi and SigEp have made a huge statement on the University of Toledo Campus. The valleys and the mountains have been traversed by many, and you can testify that today, SigEp is climbing the biggest mountain at Toledo and not looking back. Why?

2000, a membership review, and the chapter nearly extinct, after winning Buchanan cups in 1983, 1985, 1987, and then a valley, SigEp surged again in 1995 to win our only cup of the decade. During this time, college fraternity life flourished, but again, the risks associated with this life increased with growing membership and few safety measures. By 1999, the chapter was literally out of control, and the future of SigEp became a question that even I could no longer stand and say ... *they will come* ... but they did. It all came down to a short meeting, in the restroom of a local establishment, where the University had decided SigEp was over at UT. With one last plea, a deal was made to let the chapter put on a presentation ... all 11 of them, to keep us on campus, and in our house. Let's just say, we won the battle, and never looked back.

Since 2000, this chapter has set standards that truly amaze me. Just to be a member, they chose to require nearly a 3.0 GPA to even join. Many of us would never have been able to join. With over 100 members today, it is hard to state that these young men were wrong. They have built a chapter of winners, men that care about our fraternity, its values, care for each other, trust, integrity, and

honesty. What a wonderful way to live life. But more than anything, the friendships we have made over the past 15 years have created a way of life, a value system that even those from 2000 cannot comprehend. When I think of where we

have come from, I am simply in awe that when the field was cleared, and the bases were planted, we grew this chapter that has standards and values far exceeding our own.

I must state, SigEp would never have been the same without the wisdom of our living founders, like Larry Leake, Dick Springer, Don Thurber, and Tom Schnell. All of these men have been the best guides for a great chapter. Also, for those that have gone before, and notably, Dick Bensman and Robert Gates, the friendships created will last my lifetime, and I for one cannot state how much men like them have meant to a chapter that has grown like it has over the past fifteen years.

Being a part of this game has been the most enjoyable ever over the past couple of years for me. We have an incredible alumni board, each of whom has a job, and does it well. We work well, from guys in their 50s to those in their 20s. In 2014 our membership honored us with the largest capital campaign that we have ever experienced. And we were able to help another brother in his time of need, and raised over \$14,000 for his cause. So, if you want to help, give us your time, your financial help, or both. We have built a grandstand around this chapter, and we want to build a stadium!

It truly is a great day for SigEp, and a great run! SigEp is up to bat again, and it will be out of the park in 2015!





# SigEps Make Tie One On 2015 Huge Success



**F**or the second year in a row Sigma Phi Epsilon was crowned winner of the 2015 Tie One On Student Competition. Tie One On is put on by The Office of External Affairs which raised \$40,000 for prostate cancer awareness, treatment and outreach. For the second year in a row SigEp had 100% participation by all members and won the tie

breaker against Phi Kappa Psi thanks to great support by alumni brothers. For winning the event SigEp was recognized at halftime with a trophy, will have a banner hung in the Student Union and also will be presented an award at halftime of a Toledo home football game in 2015.

---

## Help Active Brothers Go to the Grand Chapter Conclave in Nashville

**Y**ou can make a tax deductible contribution to help our active brothers with the cost of travel, registration, and hotel. These costs will add up to around \$750 per registrant. The actives have been working hard at raising money to send a large delegation to represent Ohio Iota. As alumni, we can help. Here's how to do it:

Make checks payable to..... **Sigma Phi Epsilon Educational Foundation**

In the memo write..... **Ohio Iota Direct Fund-Conclave 2015**

Mail to..... **Jenn Harter  
310 South Boulevard  
Richmond VA 23220**

It is also possible to make a credit card contribution on line using the following link. Please choose "Ohio Iota Direct Scholarship Fund" for the chapter scholarship gift under the "Choose a Program" drop down menu.

<http://ow.ly/HcpY5>

# Sigma Phi Epsilon Scholarship Report

**M**any thanks to all of you who continue to support our scholarship funds! We have had a great year in terms of giving and I'm especially excited to report that our newest scholarship, Sigma Phi Epsilon Presidents Club Scholarship, in memory of Robert Gates, has reached endowed status. This is significant because this will allow for new scholarships going into the future. This fund will target undergraduate officers living in the chapter house.

On the receiving side of these scholarship funds are active brothers striving to get through competitive and escalating financial barriers. They are appreciative and proud to have alumni who care about them. You are making a significant difference in their lives. You are helping them to grow and develop those long-standing SigEp values. This year our scholarship funds will sponsor over \$11,000 in scholarships and leadership awards!

Our Springer Fund has helped send additional brothers to the Sigma Phi Epsilon Carlson Leadership Academy. The Stegman Sigma Phi Epsilon Leadership Scholarship will be announced at the upcoming Senior Dinner in April. Following are short bios for SigEp Scholarship recipients so far this year.

## BALANCED MAN SCHOLARSHIPS

**Zachary Uram** is from Toledo, Ohio and went to St. Francis de Sales High School. He plans on graduating in 2020 and practicing Pharmacy with his older brother, Richard Uram.

**Erich Greulich** is from Elmore, Ohio and attended Woodmore High School. He hopes to graduate in 2018 with a degree in Exercise Science.

**Christopher Mills** is from Ashville, Ohio and graduated from Teays Valley High School. He hopes to graduate in the spring of 2018 with a degree in Nursing. After college, he plans to pursue a license to become a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist.

**Jay Cok** is from Celeryville, Ohio and attended Willard High School. He plans on attending medical school after graduating in 2019 with a degree in biomedical engineering.

**Joey Steller** is from Sunbury, Ohio and attended Big Walnut High School. He hopes to graduate in 2018 with a degree in nursing.

**Ofek Avidor-Reiss** is from Ottawa Hills and attended Ottawa Hills High School. He plans to graduate in 2018 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and a minor in Chemistry.

**Cody Keister** is from Toledo and attended Central Catholic High School. He hopes to graduate in 2018 with degrees in both Finance and Accounting.

**Anthony Beier** is from Clyde, Ohio and attended Clyde High School. He hopes to graduate in 2018 with a degree in Mechanical Engineering and a Entrepreneurship, Family and Small Business minor.

## BENSMAN SCHOLARSHIPS

**Lucas Zastrow** attended Sylvania Southview High School. Upon graduation he plans to enroll in UT's Physical Therapy Doctoral Program and specialize in orthopedics to become a manual therapist.

## MANDULA CHALLENGE FUND

**Kevin McCulley** has been very involved in the chapter including recruiting and the Balanced Man Program. He is an accounting major and plans to achieve his CPA to work in a large accounting firm.

**Ryan Schropp** is majoring in Exercise Science/ Pre Medicine and upon graduation will attend medical school. His chapter involvement includes Vice President of Programming, Social Chair, and Sound Body Chair.

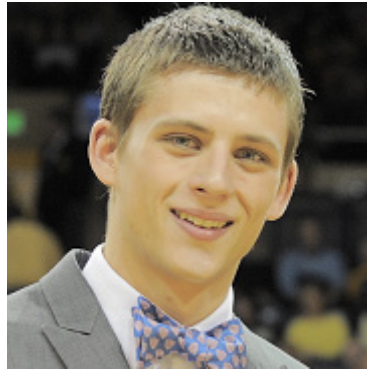
**Todd Klewer** is majoring in Marketing/ Organizational Leadership/Pre-Law. Upon graduation, he hopes to obtain a marketing job with a large company and eventually expand into the legal field. Among his contributions are Balanced Man Scholarship Chairman and Presidential Ambassador.

## Remember:

- If you have questions or need help, contact me at [Randy@TheMcCulloughs.us](mailto: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 SigEp 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!

# State of the Undergrad Chapter

**H**ello brothers,  
My name is Dexter Emch and I have recently been selected to serve as the chapter's 65th president. I am a junior majoring in Criminal Justice and graduated from Woodmore High School in Elmore, Ohio. At the University of Toledo, I am currently involved in the Student Wellness Awareness Team, Liftoff UT, and the Criminal Justice Society. I am extremely excited about serving the chapter this year and I am looking forward to building off of a record year in 2014.



2014 was an extremely successful year for Ohio Iota. We were able to win the Trifecta for the third year in a row here at UT. Three years ago we became the first chapter to ever win all three awards. The Trifecta consists of Academics, Campus and Community Involvement, and Sports. This past year we held a 3.35 GPA as a chapter, had over 140 community service hours per member, and won intramural championships in dodgeball, softball, soccer and more. At Songfest we had Senior, Daniel Janisz, named as Greek man of the Year, along with four members tapped in Blue Key National Honor Society, which recognizes the top 13 leaders along campus. We also had numerous other brothers selected into Mortar Board National Honor Society and Order of Omega Honor Society. There are currently over twenty organizations in which a SigEp serves as the president including Blue Key, Mortar Board, Order of Omega, and Presidential Ambassadors.

We started the fall semester off strong with recruitment through the Balanced Man Scholarship Banquet. After reviewing over 200 applications we were able to award \$5,000 to ten outstanding incoming freshmen. We also held our annual SigEp Slip N' Slide where we built a 200 foot long Slip N' Slide down Parks Tower Hill during opening weekend. We had our biggest attendance yet with over 900 participants. Through all our recruitment efforts we were able to sign a very ambitious class of 34 members, bringing our roster to over 100 men.

Over the summer we were very fortunate to have our kitchen updated. The total project cost around \$27,000 that wouldn't have been made possible without the generosity of our alumni. The kitchen renovation included new cabinets that include a trophy case, counter tops, sink, and tile flooring. We also received new couches for the first floor. The house now looks fantastic and as a chapter we owe a great deal of gratitude to the Alumni Board for their continued support to keep our house the best on campus.

As a chapter, we couldn't be happier with how the past year has turned out. We now look to a young and ambitious executive board to work side by side with me. The executive board for 2015 will be: Tyler Hotchkiss, Vice President of Programming; Alec Falkenberg, Vice President of Finance; Todd Klewer, Vice President of Member Development; Kyle Boyers, Vice President of Recruitment; Lucas Zastrow, Chaplain; Aaron DeGuilio, Vice President of Operations; Evan Westlake, Vice President of Communications; and Mahmoud Awad, House Manager. We look forward to using the momentum generated by Nick Dorner and the 2014 executive board to take the chapter to new heights in 2015.

We are currently working hard for this years "Star Spangled Songfest." We hope to see many alumni present on Saturday, March 28 at 5p.m. in Savage Arena. Our directors Aaron Deguilio and Brandon Rosolowski are working hard to ensure that we put on our best performance yet. Two weeks later we will be traveling to Gatlinburg, TN for a relaxing weekend where we will stay in five cabins in the Smoky Mountains.

As Ohio Iota keeps striving to make a difference on campus and the community we look forward to making our alumni proud in 2015. With the leadership and lessons taught by the alumni we hope to take our chapter to even greater heights then we have seen in the past. We invite all to come and take a look at the house and get to know the undergraduate chapter.





## **Sigma Phi Epsilon**

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

## **Parents Tailgates Football & Songfest**

In the fall we filled a corner of lot 10 with parents, actives, and alumni for the first combined tailgate event before heading in to the Rockets football game. Attendance surpassed all expectations and everyone enjoyed the food, refreshments, and most importantly getting to know each other.

### **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!

In 2014, we hosted the first Annual Parents Songfest Tail Gate. Parents and family members are again invited to the Fraternity house at 2:30 p.m. before the 5:00 p.m. performance of Songfest 2015.

The date is Saturday, March 28th and the theme is *A Star-Spangled Songfest*. Last year over 60 guests attended the get-together. They enjoyed meeting other parents, active members, and alumni. Guests toured the house and asked questions about Greek life in general and the SigEp experience in particular. Most did not realize all of the accomplishments the chapter achieved. They were impressed with the focus on grades and community service. A number of guests contributed to the Sweet Emily fundraising campaign and inquired what the chapter needed in the house. If you can make it please stop in and visit and cheer the chapter on to a Songfest victory.