

# The Red Door



OHIO IOTA OF SIGMA PHI EPSILON AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO — MAY 2004

Honoring Margaret and John Mandula:

## Ohio Iota Establishes Mandula Scholarship Fund

*1975 ... Remember ... Starsky and Hutch?  
Barney Miller? The Six Million Dollar Man?  
How About...Mark Mandula pledges Sig Ep!*

**Y**es, Sig Ep at the University of Toledo was about to undergo a big change....the Mandula's. Starting in 1975, and finishing in the late 1980's, the Sig Ep chapter grew exponentially, both in size and quality. And the Mandula's continued to join in mass! Mark Mandula '75 eventually became Sig Ep President in 1978. Following right behind him, was Jack Mandula (76), who served as our President until 1980. After that, Tom '78 and David '82 joined the chapter, and served in numerous leadership roles throughout their tenure at the University of Toledo. Jack ran for Student Government President, remember.....Mandula Brown?

Margaret Mandula, (their Mother), was a Sweetheart of the fraternity! John Mandula, their father, was the driving force encouraging all Sig Ep brothers to continue their education, and to be involved in the future of the University.

John Mandula passed away May 10th, 2003, in Palm Harbor, FL, where Margaret and John moved in the late 90's. Born in Stropkov, Czechoslovakia, he resided in Palm Harbor since 1998, after moving from Toledo, Ohio. He retired in 1986, as a Buyer and Merchandising Executive, working for R. H. Macy's, LaSalles Department Store and Elder-Beerman for over 30 years. He was a World War II Veteran, having served as a Motor Machinist, Third Class in the United States Coast Guard. He was a member of the Espiritu Santo Catholic Church, and the Knights of Columbus, Barney Gonyea Council 7109

John left us all with wonderful memories, and a tribute to our fraternity, the gift of brotherhood. John was a wonderful person, a loving husband and father, and a devoted supporter of the University of Toledo, and the Fraternity. John never complained of his illness, and always had a positive attitude about life. His life revolved around his family and friends, and he challenged each of us to make life better for someone else. Complaining never helps, its positive attitude that will get you through!

As a tribute, the Mandula family created the Sigma Phi Epsilon Margaret and John Mandula Fund at the University of Toledo. The

scholarship is known as the John and Margaret Mandula Challenge Scholarship, and is awarded to an Undergraduate Sigma Phi Epsilon Brother whom has undergone a hardship in his life, and has been successful at achieving a resolution that has made him better today.

Since November of 2003, the Mandula Family and Friends donated over \$12,000 to the fund, which was matched dollar for dollar by the family. Today, the fund balance has reached record levels for a new scholarship fund at UT, and shall provide the necessary endowment to perpetuate the scholarship for a lifetime.

Thank you to Margaret, Mark, Jack, Tom,

and David, and their families, for making this happen. The Brothers of Sigma Phi Epsilon have been the beneficiary of your kindness, and your gift has been duly recognized by all!

Note: Anyone wishing to undertake a similar project please do not hesitate to call Ted Behnken (Tedohio100@aol.com) at 419-346-4700.

The Sigma Phi Epsilon Mandula Fund Donors for 2003: Margaret Mandula, Jack (John) Mandula, Mark Mandula, Tom Madula, David Mandula, and Ted Behnken.

The inaugural scholarship recipient was Thomas Crawford ■

## Alumni/Senior Dinner a Signature Event for Ohio Iota

**O**n Thursday, April 8, alumni and undergraduates gathered once again for the 4th annual Alumni/Senior Dinner at the Old Spaghetti Warehouse. This signature event for Ohio Iota marks the full circle of undergraduate membership for our brothers as we welcomed them into the ranks of alumni. Over 20 seniors participated in the Hoop of Steele ritual ceremony and added their engraved tags to the hoop, signifying the move to the alumni ranks.

In addition the seniors, the night also saw a great outpouring of our alumni. Over 15 alumni from as far back as the 1960's were on hand along with the alumni board. The annual award for Outstanding Career Achievement went to Les Lipski '73 for his highly successful career in banking and finance. Les had some inspirational words for the alumni and undergraduates about the things that have contributed to his success including the strong sense of brotherhood of his pledge class, who continue to regularly get together after 30 years of brotherhood. Les served Ohio Iota for many years on the Householding Corporation during the 1980's and kept the chapter and alumni on a solid financial footing.

The annual award for Distinguished Service went to Brian Paskvan '84 for his years

of service to Ohio Iota as Chapter Counselor during the early 1990's, when the chapter moved from the Dorr St. house to on campus. Brian's diligent work laid the foundation for a run of Buchanan Cups for Ohio Iota during his tenure. Brian currently serves as the executive assistant to the President and acting dean of the Findlay Campus of Owens College.

Ohio Iota is extremely fortunate to have such alumni who have not only have excelled in their professions but have also found time to give back to the chapter. The men truly embody the values Virtue, Diligence and Brotherly Love. ■

### Ohio Iota Alumni Board

President – Dr. Rick St. John '63  
Chapter Counselor – Matt Blecke, Ohio Theta '95  
VP-Undergrad Operations – Matt Hagemeyer '02  
VP-Member Development – Nathan Konrad '02  
VP Recruitment - Brent Denny '02  
VP-Alumni Relations – Dr. Ron Binder '83  
Secretary – Allen Roy (Marist College) '92  
Treasurer – Ted Behnken '82  
Alumni Webmaster – Mitch Rall '02  
Parent Representative – Gary Hagemeyer

# President's Perspective

**D**ear Brothers,  
It has been an exceptional semester for the Ohio Iota Chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon. Our 74-man chapter has come together to help dominate nearly every aspect of student life here at the University of Toledo, but yet we remain unsatisfied. We are continuously looking for areas of improvement in order to take us above and beyond what our founders envisioned for us in 1901. With proper use of the Balanced Ideal and our cherished cardinal principles, the sky is the limit!

Academically, we have once again raised the bar and have continued dominance for the 4th straight year. By realizing the reason we are at college is to attain a quality education, our chapter has made our studies our first priority. Our chapter cumulative G.P.A. of 3.26 for the Fall semester of 2003 has reflected this and has helped us to achieve 1st place standing among all Greek Organizations at UT. It has also earned us a spot in the Phi Beta Kappa Wheelhouse, which is a prestigious mention given out by SigEp Headquarters to chapters with a G.P.A. of above a 3.15. Attaining this high of a G.P.A. with a 74-man chapter is an amazing accomplishment and testament to the quality of men we have. Keep up the great work gentlemen!

SigEp not only excels in the classroom but also on the athletic field. For the second year in a row, we have won the Dean Park's 1st place Sports Trophy and we already have a commanding lead for next year's competition by winning 6 of the 7 sports played thus far. Our drive and motivation we have for a Sound Mind and a Sound Body has helped our chapter and its members to succeed.

The Balanced Man Program is designed to develop individuals into a leader throughout different campus organizations. This program has been working efficiently and we now hold many important positions of leadership. Guy Beeman (re-elected as Student Government President), Jon Hassel (Blue Key President), Tom Crawford (Mortor Board President), Brian Fisher (Student Alumni Association President), Jason Hoyng (Institute of Industrial Engineers President), and Alex Sturgill (Songfest 2004 Master of Ceremonies) are just a glimpse of the kind of leadership roles SigEp members hold. The experiences the men in these kinds of positions are gaining now are setting them up for success in their careers after college. They inspire the young men of the chapter and serve as true role models to learn from. Thanks to those men and congratulations!

The main highlights of this year have been a result of two events. In February, Ohio Iota came away from the Carlson Leadership Academy with a newfound knowledge of the possibilities to excel nationally in SigEp and with two outstanding honors. Ryan Schmidt became the second Zollinger Senior Award winner in the last 3 years for Ohio Iota. Also, our on-campus

house was recognized as the "Home of the Year" in Region 5, which distinguishes us as one of the top eight houses in the nation. This was mainly due to the mass renovation of the first floor of our house during Christmas break, which was paid for by the undergraduates. During Songfest on April 3, 2004, SigEp sent a message to everyone in attendance by having 6 members tapped into Mortor Board and another 6 members into Blue Key Honor Society. Having 6 of the top 13 leaders on campus is an accomplishment no one ever dreamed of.

Finally, we are proud to announce that we have won the 1st place award for the Outstanding Student Organization Award at the University of Toledo. Our campaign for a second straight Buchanan Cup is on a roll, but we still have a lot of work ahead of us.

A big thank you goes out to all of our great alumni. Without you, SigEp wouldn't be where it is at today. Another thank you goes out to our parents. Your support is never ending and very appreciated. Virtue, Diligence, and Brotherly Love continue to lead us throughout our college career and will follow us for a lifetime. Our goals, standards, and expectations remain high for the up-coming year. We look to continue our great excellence here at the University of Toledo and serve as a role model to fraternities everywhere.

Fraternally,  
Allen M. Bresson '05,  
Chapter President ■

From Parent Representative Gary Hagemeyer:

## Parents Perspective

**D**ear Parents,  
I am very proud to have served this year as the parent representative to the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity at the University of Toledo. The men that are members of this group as well as the alumni members that I have worked with have set very high standards for themselves and the group. They have either met or exceeded most of them. The more that I learn about the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity, the more impressed I am that they know what is important both physically and mentally to be successful in everything they do. They continue to impress the leadership of this university with their grades, moral standards, character and goals.

This year has meant a great deal more to me as I was given the opportunity to join the fraternity as a Renaissance Brother. Never before have I experienced the feeling of support from a group such as this. I now realize why decisions were made in the past to help turn this chapter around and appreciate more the character that it took to make the hard decisions. The bond between these members and the support for each other that is such a great part of this fraternity is

## Alumni Board Hosts Senior Etiquette Dinner

**T**he Ohio Iota Alumni Board hosted our fifth etiquette dinner this semester at the home of Tim '82 and Sarah Croak.

Brother Andy Conrad '82 assisted as well as Lori Edgeworth (wife of brother Jim Edgeworth '82). The group began the evening with a mock-tail party and then progressed to a formal dinner.

Sig Ep's new Balanced Man Program encourages chapters to host such events to prepare our members for life after college. The Alumni Board, along with the undergraduates, put together the program and plans to offer it each semester. We are always in need of alumni couples to help out with this, so if you are interested please email Ron Binder at [ronbinder@yahoo.com](mailto:ronbinder@yahoo.com) ■

## New Members for Spring '04

**O**hio Iota is proud to announce three new members for Spring '04. The new members, along with the current members, take the chapter to over 70! The Alumni Board held a welcome dessert for the new members at the home of Dr. Ron Binder '83 where board and undergraduate leaders spoke of their history with Sig Ep and why they chose to join Ohio Iota. We are excited to welcome these new members to the Ohio Iota Sig Ep family!

Mike Dewitt: Dublin, OH 3rd year Pharmacy  
Matt Runyon: Akron, OH 1st year Business  
Eric Tuttle: Cuyahoga Falls, OH 1st year Pharmacy

what makes this group one of the most outstanding chapters in the nation.

I have also been able to observe the strong support of the Sig Ep Alumni Board. These men help guide the members through their time here at the University of Toledo and strongly encourage all of the members. The dedication of these individuals is also a major contributor for the success of this fraternity.

I look forward to helping out this chapter in the future with anything that may be needed. The future of this chapter is strong and will continue to be this way as long as the history is taught and remembered. Good luck to all of the graduates. Thank you again for giving me the opportunity to be your Parent Representative.

## Balanced Man Scholarships

for Fall 2003 (made possible through the Ohio Iota/UT Scholarship Endowment):

Adam Scharf Kenton, Ohio  
William Burger Willowick, OH  
Stephen Smith Versailles, OH



## News from the Alumni & Volunteer Board

The University of Toledo created a new award a few years ago that rated all of the student organizations on the campus – nearly 800 of them. Well, on April 26, Ohio Iota Chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon was named the Outstanding Student Organization at UT. This is the first time a sorority or fraternity has won the award and it just goes along with all of the other honors that came to Sig Ep this year.

We started with a Buchanan Cup in San Antonio last summer – the fifth for this chapter. Then we scored 97% on the Greek Evaluation – higher than any other fraternity, placed 1st in Scholarship for Dean Parks Trophy, 1st in Sports, and 3rd in Campus and Community. We took 3rd in Songfest, had 6 men elected to Blue Key, including Jon Hassel, president, Ross Altenburger, treasurer, Allen Bresson, Tom Crawford, Gordon Pokorny, and Devon Scheible. Guy Beeman won the Blue Key Schmakel Scholarship. The Mortar Board found 6 men from Sig Ep on board there also, including Crawford, president, Scheible, secretary, Altenburger, Hassel, Pokorny, and Alex Sturgill. Nikko Ronquillo was named one of the recipients of the Mortar Board Underclassmen Award. Guy Beeman was again elected Student Body President and Donovan Nichols continues as a governor's appointment to the University Board of Trustees.

In the National Fraternity category, Steve Studer won the Ruck Campus Leadership Award at this year's CLA, and the chapter brought home a Dean's Cup for highest grades on campus. The 78 men have a cumulative grade point average of 3.3 – the highest of any Greek letter organization. Ryan Schmidt was named the Zollinger Senior for District 12, and two men were selected for the very competitive Ruck Leadership Institute at Williamsburg, VA – Allen Bresson and Rich Miller. Sunny Gupta won a national improvement scholarship and two men will travel to UIFI Leadership School at Purdue this summer – Jon Hassel and Jeremy Maple.

At the Senior Alumni Dinner in April, Ohio Iota recognized two exceptional alumni. Brian Paskvan '84, Assistant to the President and

Acting Dean of the Findlay Campus of Owens College was awarded the Volunteer Excellence Award for his many contributions to the chapter over the years, including board service and chapter counselor. The Career Achievement Award went to Les Lipski '73, currently chief financial officer for Norton Manufacturing Company.

The Alumni Board is still looking for additional members to work with the board and the chapter. We will be finalizing our 5-year Strategic Plan in June. Our goals align with the undergraduate plans, so that we can continue to be the pre-eminent fraternity on the UT campus and provide the finest undergraduate fraternity experience possible. One of the goals we will be trying to implement will be to establish a fund so that we can help finance training opportunities for these exceptional young leaders. Opportunities such as Ruck, UIFI, Sig Ep's ultimate training the Trip to Greece, CLA's and Conclaves are all expensive on an undergraduate budget. We hope to establish a fund of at least \$20,000 so that we can utilize the interest to award deserving undergraduates the opportunities to excel. If that is something that interests you, please contact me at 419-478-0471 or rstjohn@buckeye-express.com.

And last, but certainly not least – the promised entrance sign in the vestibule has been installed. Thanks to Chris Carroll '98 and Les Lipski '73 and friends for their assistance in making it happen. It simply reads:

A history of strength through leadership and service – Character, Brotherhood, Culture  
Chi Beta Chi

Virtue, Diligence, and Brotherly Love  
Sigma Phi Epsilon

## ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES

We regret to announce the passing of **Dean Charles Shock** of Lansdale, PA, age 61. **Dr. Ron Binder '83** recently had a chapter published in the book *The Administration of Fraternal Organizations on North American Campuses: A Pattern for the New Millennium*.

## Ohio Iota – Sigma Phi Epsilon Awards 2003-04

(The list for 2002-03 was almost as long)

### 1st Place - U of Toledo Outstanding Student Organization

(never before won by a Greek organization)

University of Toledo Greek Annual Evaluation 2003-04: 97% - Highest Fraternity

IFC Awards 2003-04

1st place – Dean Parks Scholarship  
(35% members on Dean's List)

1st Place – Dean Parks - Sports  
3rd Place – Dean Parks Campus/Community

Songfest: 3rd Place – Men's Division

Blue Key Class of 2003-04  
Ross Altenburger - Treasurer, Allen Bresson,  
Tom Crawford, Jon Hassel – President,  
Gordon Pokorny, Devon Scheible

Blue Key Schmakel Scholarship Class of 2002-03  
Guy Beeman, Jr.

Mortar Board Class of 2003-04

Ross Altenburger  
Tom Crawford – President  
Jon Hassel

Gordon Pokorny  
Devon Scheible – Secretary

Songfest MC 2005: Alex Sturgill

Mortar Board Underclassman Award  
Thomas Crawford, Nikko Ronquillo, Jonathan  
Hassel, Gordon Pokorny

Student Body President  
2003-04 and 2004-05: Guy Beeman, Jr.

Student Member of the University of Toledo  
Board of Trustees appointed by Governor  
2003-05:  
Donovan Nichols

IFC Officers and Chairmen 2004-05

Jeremy Maple - Secretary  
Devon Scheible – Sports Chair  
Adam Scharf – Scholarship Chair

Golden Key Honor Society 2004-05  
Allen Bresson – Vice President  
Kyle Blatt, Anthony Doglio, Faton Gjuka,  
Sunny Gupta, Jason Hoyng, Donovan Nichols,  
Sean McMannis, Devon Scheible, Ryan Schmidt,  
Lance Smith, Brian Wiggins, Greg Wilson

Gamma Sigma Alpha 2004-05  
Kyle Blatt, Allen Bresson, Jason Hoyng,  
Devon Scheible

Sig Ep Ruck Leadership Institute (Summer 2004)  
Allen Bresson, Rich Miller

Undergraduate Inter-Fraternity Institute (Summer)  
Jon Hassel, Jeremy Maple

Other Honoraries and Offices  
Dance Marathon: Donovan Nichols – overall chair

IIE Honorary: Jason Hoyng President  
Student Alumni Association: Brian Fisher - President

## Ohio Iota of Sigma Phi Epsilon Undergraduate Officers 2004

Allen Bresson	President	Physical Therapy	3rd year	Louisville, OH
Jon Hassel	VP Programming	Biology/Pre-Med	2nd year	Springfield, OH
Jason Hoyng	VP Finance	Industrial Engineering	3rd year	Celina, OH
Rich Miller	VP Recruitment	Civil Engineering	2nd year	Castalia, OH
Devon Scheible	VP Development	Criminal Justice	3rd year	Clyde, OH
Alex Sturgill	Chaplain	Education	3rd year	Springfield, OH
Adam Scharf	VP Communications	Mechanical Engineering	1st year	Kenton, OH
Brian Zorman	House Manager	Mechanical Engineering	2nd year	Boardman, OH

## Thank You Brothers!

This fall the Ohio Iota Alumni Board and the University of Toledo Foundation conducted its fall campaign for our endowed scholarship fund at UT. We are proud to announce that we raised \$2,905 for this endowment, more than fall 2002. The overall endowment is at \$34,761. This endowment, one of only a few for Greek groups at UT, allows the alumni board to fund three \$500 scholarships for the Balanced Man Scholarship program each summer and fall (see the list below of the three recipients). This vital program offers several scholarships to incoming first year men who exemplify the balanced man ideal. The Alumni Board is proud to once again fund this program as our way of showing our tangible support for the good work of our undergrads. Below is a list of the brothers who made gifts toward this fund this winter. Thanks for your support of Ohio Iota!

Richard Springer	Richard Bensman	Matthew Bennett
Richard Cordell	James Bruning	Russ Karban
Robert Minke	Philip Woolaver	Dr. Ronald Binder
Thomas Bowers	Mark Epperly	Karl Sheffer
Eugene Novak	Harry McGovern	Dennis Herrold
Chales Schaub	John Bruning	Robert Gang
Walter Barrett	Michael Skolaris	Jay Gilchrist
Albert Kleine	Lawrence Leake	Vance Flaggert
Leslie Lipski	Donald MacKinnon	Mark Mandula
Charles Hutter	Dr. Greg Machnik	Jack Mandula
Dr. Barr Vanderkelen	Denni Brudzinski	Margaret Mandula
Donald Allen	Jerry Walz	Tom Mandula
Dr. Rick St. John	Charles Seawater	David Mandula
Matthew Tavtigian	Gerald Leroy	Ted Behnken
	Lou Barth	

## Keep In Touch With Your Brothers Electronically!

Subscribe to the Toledo Sig Eps listserv. To subscribe send an email to the following: [Toledo\\_Sig\\_Eps@yahoogroups.com](mailto:Toledo_Sig_Eps@yahoogroups.com)

We will send out periodic news and announcements

### News to Share?

Send us your alumni news or address updates to the following:

[Ohio\\_Iota\\_Alumni\\_News@yahoo.com](mailto:Ohio_Iota_Alumni_News@yahoo.com)

### Check Out the Sig Ep Web Site

For the latest news on alumni and undergraduates, check out the websites:

For the Undergraduates: [sigep.utoledo.edu](http://sigep.utoledo.edu)

For the Alumni: [sigep.utoledo.edu/alumni/](http://sigep.utoledo.edu/alumni/)

### Fraternity Pins Wanted

The Alumni Board has been slowly acquiring fraternity pins for our display case.

We are looking for a Chi Beta Chi pledge pin and sweetheart pin. If you have any fraternity pins (brother pins or sweetheart pins) we'd love to have them for our display case. We are also searching E-Bay occasionally also. If you would like to donate such items, please call Rick St. John '63 at 419-478-0471.

### Designate Your UT Gifts!

When making gifts to UT be sure to designate them to the Sig Ep Scholarship Fund or the newly created Sig Ep Mandula Scholarship Fund. These endowed funds with UT provide undergraduate scholarships 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

Box 350942

Toledo, OH 43635-0942