

The Red Door



OHIO IOTA OF SIGMA PHI EPSILON AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO — MAY 2011

Stellar Time In Chapter History

By any analysis, Sigma Phi Epsilon continues to be the dominant organization at the University of Toledo and one of the shining stars of the national Sig Ep system. Our active chapter leads in manpower, community involvement, float building, songfest, academics, sports, leadership, fundraising, and campus activities. The “balanced man” program continues to set the standard for recruitment and member development. Our alumni outreach continues to engage our graduated members and hold them in place as supporters and advisors to the active chapter. Outgoing president Jared Sisley has won the chapters 17th Zollinger award recognizing the outstanding Sig Ep senior in the state of Ohio. Blue Key/ARX has now tapped its 80th Sig Ep member. Our ranks include student government presidents, student judiciary council justices, members of mortar board, UT foundation and alumni association presidents, college deans, and success stories from all sectors of college, business, and life. The current chapter has fulfilled completely the legacy left to us by Chi Beta Chi and passed on by so many of us over so long a period of time. Anyone looking for proof need look no further than the collection of Buchanan Cups in the chapter trophy case.

It is now incumbent on any organization with such a stellar history to look ahead and start

planning the next chapter in our history. In doing so we are faced with two daunting tasks:

1. We must meet the new and awe-inspiring economic challenges with which colleges across this country are faced. University of Toledo tuition and associated costs are at an all time high while the support from the state of Ohio has diminished. Student loans, grants, and scholarships have dried up and fraternity dues and other related costs which have historically been a reasonable part of student’s budget now are out of reach for an increasing number of potential brothers. Also, fraternities, like any other business are faced with increased costs of operations.

2. We must ask ourselves if what we have done collectively up to now is good enough. Do we continue on the same path that we have followed? Though it has certainly served us well, the mind

does begin to dream: What does this chapter have the potential to accomplish? How good could it really be? Can this chapter take a place among the handful of elite fraternity chapters in this country? If so, how do we get there and what part will the alumni play? These are questions we must all ask ourselves and answer individually, as an alumni board, and as an active chapter. Two things we know with absolute certainty – we have an unbelievable pool of Ohio Iota alumni talent and we will need more alumni involvement of those talents if this chapter is to achieve its potential. My goal for my position is to reach out to tap more of you for the betterment of our chapter. Having your input, insight, and support is greatly needed and appreciated as we move forward.

Tim Croak
Alumni Association
VP of Alumni Relations



Recent Sig Ep graduates enjoying the parade party.

Alumni Board Update

This has been a very good year for the men of the Ohio Iota Residential Learning Community. Their goal has been to continue on the path toward their fifth Buchanan Cup in a row at the 2011 Conclave in Phoenix, Arizona in August. They have four consecutive Buchanan Cups since the chapter was reorganized in 2000. This win will be the gold cup signifying 10 straight years of being one of Sig Eps most outstanding chapters. There are very few chapters who have earned the gold Buchanan Cup.

These men continue the tradition of excellence on campus, in academics, and in intramural athletics and community service. They are the only fraternity to win/place in all categories in the Dean Parks Awards. This past fall they maintained a 3.236 GPA with a 102-man chapter, ranking number one on the campus for fraternities. They continue to dominate intramurals and won first place in the Dean Parks award for Athletics and placed 2nd in community service activities.

As alumni working with this chapter we hope that you know that Ohio Iota has more men serving on Sig Ep boards and as chapter counselors throughout the country than almost any other chapter. Interested? Just let us know and we will put you in contact with the people that can make it happen. You did not just join a fraternity for just your college years – *it is a lifetime experience, and your service will be greatly appreciated.*

The Ohio Iota Alumni Board has been very diligent in their efforts to work with the chapter officers to assist them in maintaining a quality presence on the UT campus. Ted Behnken has reported on the continuing increase in our investments over the last decade.

Scholarship donations are at an all-time high, and gifts from each spring's solicitation for alumni operations and chapter support continue at a steady pace. We now have four funds available to Ohio Iota Sig Eps. Our original scholarship fund assists with the Balanced Man Scholarship utilized in recruitment at the beginning of each year. The Mandula Family Fund is awarded annually to a brother within the chapter. The Richard and Gail Springer Fund is now available to assist with leadership opportunities for chapter members, and the new Dick and Kay Bensman Fund will be awarded to a Sig Ep who has graduated from the Toledo Public Schools.

The alumni work hand-in-hand with the undergraduates to upgrade the D-1 facility in the McComas Village. This spring the university replaced the carpet in the first floor of our unit. Most of the furniture purchased in the last ten years is in fairly good shape and additional work has been done on the Man Room on the third floor and the Office in the basement. Additional plans will be to develop the Residential Learning Community space in the basement with the furnishing of the faculty fellow office and development of a conference room space.

It has been a great pleasure to see all of the alumni who have returned to the campus this year for the various Open Houses sponsored by the chapter, for Homecoming, or just to drop in to the house to see what is happening. The visits always seem to include looking at the composites which date back to the early '70s, which hang proudly on the walls of the house. One project now getting under way is the refurbishing of the many scrapbooks that have been done over the years. A new cabinet

to properly store them has been built in the Faculty Fellow office.

This year's senior alumni dinner saw over 120 alumni and undergrads at the Spaghetti Warehouse in downtown Toledo on April 28, 2011. Four alumni were honored for their contributions to the chapter and to the university community at that dinner. The **Volunteer Excellence Award** will be awarded to **Leslie Lipski** for his outstanding service to the chapter while leading the alumni board as the chapter moved from Winthrop Street to Dorr Street. The **Career Achievement Award** was awarded to **Tim Harrington** for his outstanding contributions and service as President of the Ability Center. His comments on making service a part of your life were outstanding. The **Founder's Circle Award** winners were **Lawrence Leake** and **Thomas Schnell**. Their comments about the early years of the chapter were well presented. It was a great evening of laughter and memories. Daniel Janisz was awarded the Mandula Scholarship this year. More and more alumni are attending this late April event each year. We have returned to the Thursday format at the request of many alumni who have attended.

Elections for alumni board members also took place at the dinner. All of the current board members were reelected and joining the board this next year will be Rick Stegman, Daniel Ferguson and Jarred Sigmon.

Any Chi Beta Chi or Sig Eps who have historical items they would like to donate to the chapter and have displayed at the house, please contact me at rstjohn@bex.net or 419-478-0471. We are especially looking for a XBX sweat heart pin and old Sig Ep pins, sweat heart and mother's club pins and little sister pins and party favors. Any

The State of the Fraternity

The state of the active chapter is good, one that is ever changing and looking forward. The chapter has accomplished so much during this past year being recognized at the local and national level. Sigma Phi Epsilon is a leader at the University of Toledo, showing the strength of the chapter in the classroom and other facets. Ohio Iota has continued its excellence in maintaining the highest GPA in IFC since 2002, and first in sports eight out of the last ten years. The chapter is also very well represented throughout the University in several leadership roles.

This summer the chapter looks forward to Conclave in hopes of receiving our fifth straight Buchanan Cup. The outlook for the fifth is good, but only time will tell. We are planning on sending at least five representatives from the chapter to Conclave.

Locally our membership this past fall was up to 102 members and 19 new members. This spring we had 92 members and eight new members. We also developed a new brotherhood handbook which guides members from their initial joining (Sigma phase) through their ultimate accomplishment of Brother Mentor. This book makes the process more streamlined and effective.

Here is how we ranked at the University of Toledo over this past academic year:

- 1st Grades Fall 2010 and Spring 2011
- Fall 2010 New Member GPA: 3.603
- 1st IFC Sports
- 1st Community Service Hours (Fall)
- 2nd IFC Philanthropy (Fall)
- 2nd Homecoming Float Competition
- 2nd Songfest
- 100% Campus Involvement

Awards:

- Dean Parks 1st in Sports
- Dean Parks 1st in Grades
- Dean Parks 2nd Campus and Community Involvement
- The 'Ski is the Limit'
- Dean Parks Thompsons Awards – 2nd

Among the Sig Ep chapters nationally we have won:

- Frank J. Ruck Leadership Award
- Manpower Excellence Award
- Grand Chapter Scholarship Cup
- Phi Beta Kappa Wheelhouse
- Zollinger Outstanding Senior (Jared Sisley)

Individually our members became:

- Four New Members in Order of Omega
- Five members tapped into Mortar Board
- Four members tapped into Blue Key Honor Society – ARX Chapter
- Emerging Male Leader: Scott Uram

Fraternally,
Mike Miller
President, Ohio Iota
Active Chapter



Jared Sigmon with the award for the float competition.



Sig Ep actives in their cardigans ready for a Sig Ep cheer on the parade route.



Award-winning Sig Ep float.

Gifts to Sigma Phi Epsilon

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Mr. Donald J. Allen
 Aviva Charitable Foundation
 Mr. Robert D. Beat
 Mr. Richard W. Bensman
 The Coca-Cola Foundation
 Mr. Richard F. Cordell
 Mr. Timothy R. Croak
 Mr. Edward C. DeFraime
 Emerson Electric Company
 Mr. Brandt A. Engled
 Mr. John D. Herl

Mr. Stephen E. House
 Dr. Matthew J. Kirlough
 Mr. Leslie P. Lipski
 Mr. Robert F. McCarthy
 Mr. Harry J. McGovern
 Mr. Eugene C. Novak
 Mr. Carlton A. Richie, Jr.
 Ms. Cecilia M. Rivera
 Gerald Lee Seizert Trust Res
 Mrs. Patricia A. Todak
 Mr. Brian Zorman

RICHARD AND GAIL SPRINGER LEADERSHIP FUND

Blackwell, Mr. William P.
 Kleine, Mr. Albert W., Jr.
 Nichols, Mrs. Sandy R.
 Seawater, Mr. Charles H.
 Springer, Mr. Richard L.
 Studer, Mr. Stephen J.
 Thurber, Mr. Donald N.

MANDULA FUND

Behnken, Mr. Theodore Robert
 Christoff, Mr. Mark Allen
 Fifth Third Bank
 Mandula, Mr. David W.
 John & Jane Mandula Trust
 Mandula, Mr. Mark S.
 Mandula, Mr. Thomas G.
 Miller, Mr. Arlen H.
 Mandula, Mr. David W.
 Williams Towns, Mrs. Debbie



Randy McCullough, Dr. Tom Bowers, and Brad Towns reminiscing at the Senior/Alumni Awards Dinner.



Prestigious alumni Rick Stegman and Jim Irmen at the Senior/Alumni Awards Dinner.



Service to the Alumni Association award recipient Les Lipski (right) and Ray Young.



Former Blue Key presidents Dan Ferguson and Randy McCullough compare notes from their administrations.



Career Achievement Award winner Tim Harrington receives his award from Tim Croak, Alumni Association VP of Alumni Relations.



Award winner Larry Leake gets to know actives Jordan Gannon and Dan Janersz.

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old trophies that you might have are also welcome additions to our collection.

When you are in the area, please take the time to drop in to see a great chapter in operation on the University of Toledo campus. If not before, we hope to see you at Homecoming on October 8 this year. We will continue to have open houses with each home

Fall football game. If you are interested in joining the alumni board, please contact one of the current board members to place your name on the meeting contact list. Additional members are very welcome.

In the bonds,
 Rick St. John
 President, Ohio Iota
 Alumni Association

IN MEMORIAM

K. Richard Cosgrove, past president of Ohio Iota

K. Richard Cosgrove, age 71, of Fairborn, passed away Monday May 31, 2010, in the James Cancer Center at OSU. He was born October 30, 1938 in Toledo, the son of the late Kenneth and Ruth (Heater) Cosgrove. Richard was employed as an engineer with US Government in civil service at Wright-Patterson AFB, retiring in 1995 following 34 years of service. He was a member of St. Christopher's Episcopal Church in Fairborn.

He is survived by his wife of 45 years, Gail; two children, Jeff Cosgrove and wife Kate of Plain City, Ohio, Jennifer Atwood and husband Mark of Cincinnati; four grandchildren, Ben and Sarah Cosgrove, Ashlee and Abigail Atwood; a brother, Robert Cosgrove of Detroit; and a sister, Susan Roby and husband George of Chagrin Falls, Ohio. A memorial service was held on Saturday, June 12, 2010. Memorial contributions may be made to James Cancer Research via the following options (1) www.pelotonia.org for rider #1288, Dr. Don Benson; or (2) The James Development Office, PO Box 183112, Columbus, OH 43218-3112.

Richard P. Halbach, age 79, passed away on December 20, 2009, in Sun City West, AZ. Richard was a proud member of The Chosen Few Korean War Veteran's Association and a Waite High School Graduate. He is survived by his brother, James Halbach; son, Matthew (Judy) and daughter, Gretchen (Dan) Sharpe; step children, Karen (Jon) Cooper, Meg (Mike) Thomas; 7 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. He was reunited with his wife, Marie and grandson, David. Memorial service was held at the Chapel of Peace, Toledo Memorial Park & Cemetery, Saturday, January 9, 2010. Memorial contributions can be made to the Lutheran Home Society, 131 N. Wheeling St., Toledo, OH 43605-1599

Daniel Robert Moldenhauer died August 11, 2010, at the age of 76 in his home in Livermore, California. He was born February 4, 1934 in Toledo, OH to Edward and Sadie Moldenhauer. Graduating from the University of Toledo in 1957, Dan worked for several companies during his career as an industrial engineer and business executive, including Kaiser Aluminum from which he retired in 1987. Dan was an avid water enthusiast his entire life, enjoying sailing for many years and living in Discovery Bay, California in his retirement. He enjoyed traveling, having done so extensively during his life for both work and pleasure. He will be remembered fondly by his family for his stories, anecdotes, and great sense of humor. Dan will be dearly missed by his former wife, Phyllis Mathias of Danville, his children, Curt and Liane Moldenhauer of Shanghai, China/Danville, and Lisa and Brian Highfill of Pleasanton; his grandchildren, Jordan, Paige, Wade Moldenhauer, and Drew and Benjamin Highfill. A memorial service will be held at a future date.

James G. Rose, 74, of Toledo, died Tuesday, January 5, 2010, at his home. He was born September 19, 1935, in Syracuse, NY, the only child of Gilbert J. and Vera M. (McLaughlin) Rose. His parents moved to Toledo during his youth. A graduate of Devilbiss High School, Jim attended the University of Toledo in the 1950s, where he was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon. He was married June 15, 1957, to the former Beverly A. Kubitz. Jim worked more than 40 years for Key Bank, formerly Toledo Trust, retiring in December 1996. While working, he was active in, and was a past president, of his local chapter of the American Institute of Banking. In recent years he traveled extensively, visiting Ireland, Italy and England. He enjoyed Jazz music, flower gardening, watching woodland creatures in his backyard and attending live theater productions. He also enjoyed decorating his home with contemporary style, as if it would be photographed for an interior design magazine.

Surviving are his former wife and close friend, Beverly A. Rose of Toledo; son, David J. (Paula Wethington) Rose of Monroe, MI; daughter, Linda (Robert) Long of Woodstock, GA; 2 grandchildren, Bobby Long and Karolyn Wojtowicz; sister-in-law, Nancy Klawitter and many other extended family members. Memorial contributions may be made to the Toledo Symphony Orchestra, WGTE public broadcasting, or the charity of the donor's choice.

John M. "Jack" Vergiels, of Las Vegas, NV, died peacefully on December 16, 2009, surrounded by his family. He was born in Erie, Michigan in 1937. He grew up in Point Place and graduated from Waite High School. He was an all-star athlete in high school, and was named to the Waite Athletic Hall of Fame and was also a recipient of the Waite Distinguished Alumni Award. Jack attended the University of Toledo, where he earned his B.A., M.S. and Ph.D in Education. He played football and baseball for UT, and was a talented enough baseball player to try out for the Detroit Tigers. From 1960 to 1964, Jack was employed as a teacher and coach at Whitmer High School. From 1964 to 1966, he was Supervisor of Secondary Schools for the Sandusky County School District. From 1966 to 1968, he was Assistant Dean of Admissions at the University of Toledo. After obtaining his Doctorate degree he moved to Las Vegas and became professor of Education at UNLV. During his tenure, Dr. Vergiels served as Chairman of the UNLV Faculty Senate. In 1998, Dr. Vergiels was bestowed the title of Professor Emeritus. Jack went on to serve in the Nevada Legislature for 20 years. He was elected to the Nevada Assembly in 1972 and served there until 1984. While in the Assembly he was elected as Majority Whip in 1973, Assistant Majority Leader in 1979, Majority Floor Leader in 1981 and Assembly Speaker for the 1983 Session and the 1984 Special Session. Jack was elected to the Senate in 1984 and served until 1992. He was elected Senate Majority Leader for the 1991 Session, making him the only legislator in Nevada history to have served in the top leadership positions in both Houses. In 2007, he was inducted into the Nevada State Senate Hall of Fame. Following his legislative career, Jack became a lobbyist and consultant representing a wide variety of clients. He served on numerous boards of charitable organizations. He is survived by his loving wife, Halina; his children, Kelly (Greg) Arndt, of Lambertville, MI, Jack (Annabelle) and Robert Vergiels, of Las Vegas; as well as numerous grandchildren. A memorial service to celebrate Jack's life was held on Saturday, December 19, 2009. In lieu of flowers, contributions in his memory may be sent to the John M. Vergiels Scholarship Endowment Fund in care of the UNLV Foundation, 4505 Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas, NV 89154-1006.



Sigma Phi Epsilon

Ohio Iota Alumni Association

3523 Kenwood, Toledo, OH 43606



Can you name these former Sig Eps and Golden Hearts who attended the first Rocket home football game Sig Ep tailgate?



Homecoming Parade party at the Croaks' home on Middlesex. Deb Towns, Mark Christoff, Tim Croak, Bill Gergich, Brian Towns, and Sarah Croak.

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!