

The Red Door



OHIO IOTA CHAPTER OF SIGMA PHI EPSILON AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO – MARCH 2018

Jacob Smith

Undergrad President's Message

My name is Jacob Smith, and I have the distinct honor of serving as the 68th President of the Ohio Iota chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon. I am currently a fourth-year student studying Mechanical Engineering and I will be graduating in December. I was born and raised in Dundee, Michigan and I am a graduate of Dundee High School.

Throughout this Spring semester, the brothers of Ohio Iota have been building upon their past reputation by staying busy as usual and have also been living out our cardinal principles of Virtue, Diligence, and Brotherly Love.

We changed up our usual executive officer transition this year by meeting back in the Fall semester on-campus. We spent a whole day outlining five core areas that we would be focusing on as a group this semester along with our chapter advisor, Matt Blecke. This was a great way to springboard us into the Spring semester by getting us prepared and excited to keep pushing this great chapter forward.

Beginning in January, our chapter had the opportunity to participate in an incredible service opportunity. Last semester, we raised money through our philanthropy event, SigEp Stromboli, to benefit the Lopez family. We learned about the Lopez's through Cherry Street Mission, and we wanted to do everything we could to help them out. We ended up raising over \$3000 and utilizing it to purchase a dining room suite, a sofa, loveseat, coffee tables, entertainment center, clothes, and food for the family. It was incredible to see our members interacting



with the family when we brought the furniture and installed it, and also the family's gratitude towards us was amazing.

February was a busy month for us as a chapter. We sent brothers John Fetchet, Doryin Thames, and myself to the Association of Fraternal Leadership and Values Conference in Indianapolis, IN. Here, we learned about different areas of Greek Life and we were also able to interact with different UT student leaders from all four Greek Councils. We then participated in the Drop the Puck on Cancer Hockey Tournament. The brothers of Ohio Iota ended up bringing home the first-place trophy from the event.

Our recruitment this year has been focused around quality over quantity and getting to the

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Attend the 2018 Alumni Senior Dinner

Table 44, April 13th, starting at 6 p.m.

You can Prepay and Register at www.sigeptoledo.com

Free Parking at KWIK lot, 808 Monroe Street, across from the Shell gas station near the intersection of Monroe St. and N. Michigan St.

Undergrad President's Message, continued

root of what the potential new members are trying to get out of their fraternity experience. In the fall we had a recruitment class of 34 and this spring we successfully recruited 10 new members. As our chapter continues to improve, so does the quality of the members and we are extremely excited about the potential of these new men.

With the hard work that we have been putting in, we have been getting recognized with awards just as much. We had a group of 19 brothers attend the Carlson Leadership Academy in Chicago in February. At CLA, the AVC was recognized with the Outstanding Alumni Board Operational Excellence Award. The undergraduate chapter came back with some hardware as well; we received the Donald C. McCleary Member Development Excellence Award. Also, brother Kyle Bergen was awarded the Frank J. Ruck Leadership Award, and brother John Fetchet was selected as the fourth member in a row from Ohio Iota to attend the Tragos Quest to Greece this summer.

At the Greek Recognition and Awards night for the university, we were able to have an equally successful night. The Greek Standards of Excellence program strives to help chapters uphold the values by which they were founded through the utilization of a shared set of community values. We were fortunate enough to be considered to be achieving excellence in 6 out of the 7 areas possible: scholarship, service, values, leadership, risk management, and recruitment & retention. Brother Pat Ryan was also recognized as the Greek Man of the Year. In the fall of 2017, we recorded a chapter GPA of 3.433 with 136 active members.

As a chapter and an executive board, we are so excited for the way that the chapter is operating

right now. I am also personally thrilled to be working with our current executive board who is going above and beyond their duties and furthering the chapter down the path of success. The executive board for 2018 that I have the pleasure of serving alongside of is: Mark Lewandowski, Vice President of Programming; Landon Bleau, Vice President of Finance; Austin

Fisher, Vice President of Member Development; Jordan Jones, Vice President of Recruitment; CJ Miller, Chaplain; Charlie Klinedinst, Vice President of Operations; Preston Ewald, Vice President of Communications; and Amin Award, House Manager. We are working to build off of the momentum built by Pat Ryan and the rest of the 2017 executive board to make 2018 an impactful year for the chapter.

We are currently working hard for this years "Songfest 2018: No Time Like the Present." We would love to have as many alumni as possible to support our brothers on Saturday, March 24th at 5 PM in Savage Arena. Our directors, Kevin Martin and Jordan Jones, have been working diligently to top last year's performance and capture first place. On April 13th at 6 PM, we will be having our Senior Alumni Dinner at Table 44 in Downtown Toledo that we hope to see you all at. Then the following

weekend, we will be traveling down to Gatlinburg, Tennessee for our spring formal where we will spend a relaxing weekend in cabins in the Smoky Mountains.

As we move forward and attempt to build upon the success that we have had, we would like to say thank you to all of our alumni who give us constant support. Without you, we truly would not be the chapter that we are today. We look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming events, and we invite all to stop in to the on-campus house and get to know the undergraduate chapter.



Greek Life: Where Do We Go?

As AVC President, one of the most important things we do is work with our chapter to make sure they are promoting a safe and educational experience for our Undergraduate Members.

Universities all over the country are worried about our undergraduate behavior, and the risks they have taken for their members. Sig Ep is leading the way, and as volunteer, I am very happy that they have begun to embrace the policies that Toledo has been doing since 2001. It is refreshing to know that Toledo was ahead of the curve, and looking for ways to engage our 125-man chapter to reach new heights!

Sig Ep is the only fraternity at Toledo to be recognized as a top tier chapter. Meaning they excel in every area to make our fraternity safer, enjoyable, and have an incredible impact upon our community and university. But we must be aware that it only takes one incident, and that image of fraternity life could be gone. We understand the risks, and I firmly believe our chapter will always do what is right...making a pledge to live our values.

Maybe it is time for you to get involved. As I finish my 39th year volunteering, I firmly believe in our chapter, and what they represent. Sure, we have hills and valleys, but the climb has always been up!

This year, at our Senior Dinner, we decided to refocus on those that made a difference in our history. Honoring Mickey Scully as a Lifetime sweetheart shows that we have a commitment to our past, and that this past must help shape the future! Take time to be at the Dinner this year. It is a great night, and filled with many great moments. And the bonus is you get to meet our chapter!

April 13th is special this year. It celebrates 68 years of Sig Ep! But, as a brotherhood, we have been on campus since 1929...and next year, we will celebrate 90 years as a UT organization!

We are all a part of a great organization! I hope you make it to Table 44 on April 13 to help us celebrate another great year of SIG EP.

Founder's Circle Awarded to Ray Wohl

Brother Raymond Wohl will be awarded the Founder's Circle Award at this year's Alumni Senior Dinner. Ray came to the University of Toledo in 1973, majoring in Theater, and joined SigEp that fall. In the chapter he held various positions, including rush chair, new member educator, and treasurer. Outside the chapter he was a member of Blue Key, University YMCA Freshman Camp Counselor, President of the College of Arts and Sciences, Songfest Co-chair, Co-editor of the RAG newspaper and performed in more than ten UT theater Productions. Ray graduated in 1977 with his BA in Theater and later attended NYU graduate school for the arts and Northeastern Illinois University, where he received an MA in Speech Communication and Performing Arts. Ray has performed, wrote, directed and toured plays all over the USA. Not only is Ray a Professional Actor but also an Educator of the performing arts, where



he was a Chicago Public School teacher for 25 years. He also has been a Chicago Teachers Union school delegate, where he was a state and national delegate to three National union meetings of the American Federation of Teachers. Even more, he was elected and served on the Board of Trustees for the 10-billion-dollar, 65,000-member Chicago Teachers' Pension fund from 2011 to 2017. Using this experience, he had the opportunity to speak at two national pension conventions on public pension advocacy. Ray's activism continued as a professional writer in 2017 as a playwright, actor, and producer of an original solo musical play about sustainability, "Help Santa Go Green." In his recent retirement from teaching, he is currently writing a solo play on the life of "L. Frank Baum: The Royal Historian of Oz." Please join us in honoring Brother Raymond Wohl as this year's Founder's Circle award winner.

Sigma Phi Epsilon Scholarship Report

Another 16 individual scholarships and over \$12,000 awarded from our Sig Ep Scholarship Funds this year! Our alumni and scholarship support continues to be a big factor in elevating Sig Eps at Toledo to a higher level! In addition to individual scholarships, the Sig Ep Springer Fund provides funding for 19 brothers to attend the Sig Ep Carlson Leadership Academy, which offers interactive officer training for undergraduate executive positions. Not only are we building a strong chapter, but we are developing balanced individuals who are true to Sig Ep values.

Below are recipients for the 2017-2018 academic year.

Balanced Man Scholarships awarded Fall Semester 2017:

Nick Singlar	Preston Ewald
Don Griesmer	Nicholas Brautigam
Nathaniel Mayle	Johnathan Hayes
Spencer Traub	Logan Perlaky
Alexander Ritton	David Straub

Bensman Scholarship awarded Fall Semester 2017:

Jovan Sanson

Mandula Challenge Fund awarded Fall Semester 2017:

Austin Fisher
Kevin Martin
Branson Ninck

Robert Gates President's Fund awarded Spring Semester 2018:

Austin Fisher
Jordan Jones

Remember:

- If you have questions or need help, contact me at 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 Sig Ep 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!

SigEp Stromboli Helps the Lopez Family

Last semester, our chapter, Sigma Phi Epsilon Ohio Iota, adopted the Lopez family, which we came into contact with through our contacts at the Cherry Street Mission. They moved here from Queens, New York, with nothing after losing their jobs and living on family members' couches. They recently overcame homelessness through the help of the Cherry Street Mission and were given a home to live in. With still very little money, they had almost nothing in their home except old, broken, donated furniture. We were inspired by them, and decided to dedicate our philanthropy dinner, SigEp Stromboli, to them.

Through our efforts, we made over 800 strombolis and raised almost \$3000 to benefit the Lopez family. With this, we went shopping for them and bought them a variety of needs and home furnishings including a sofa, loveseat, coffee table, two end tables, two bed frames, a six-person dining suite, a rug, a stuffed turtle, blender, two new sets of bedding, an entertainment center and TV



stand, took them out for lunch at Chipotle, school and art supplies, and many clothes. They are slowly getting back on their feet and we were excited to be able to give them a boost to help remind them that they have others looking out for them.

Brother Scott Flowers Receives Career Achievement Award

Scott Flowers worked for Owens Corning for 34 years. He started his career as a Mechanical Project Engineer at a fiberglass insulation manufacturing facility in Fairburn, GA. He advanced through a series of manufacturing leadership roles before changing career paths and leading global marketing and product management for a 1.5 billion dollar Composite Systems Business and GM roles for two business units. Scott finishing his career at Owens Corning as Global Supply Chain Leader for their 2 billion dollar Roofing Products Business. Scott now works for Gartner Inc. as an executive advisor, working with senior executives to develop business strategy and execution plans for companies such as Honeywell, Whirlpool, Cummins, and Specialized Bicycles.

Scott holds a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from The University of Toledo and a MBA from Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Business.

After 8 moves for work, Scott and his wife Kim made their 9th, and hopefully their last, move to Brooklyn, Michigan where they live on Lake Columbia. They have been married for almost 35 years and have four children: Jenna, Brian, Jordan, and Brett.



Jeff Kuhlman Honored with Volunteer Excellence Award

Jeff Kuhlman received a surprise invitation in the spring of 1981 that introduced him to Sigma Phi Epsilon. He recalls "attending a number of events at the Door Street house" and was "genuinely captivated by the people"—both Brothers and Golden Hearts. He "found a diversity among the SigEps that I didn't sense in the other fraternities."

Following graduation in the fall of 1984 he served as Alumni President. Jeff had very specific goals for the Alumni organization: communicate, keep Brothers united and do it efficiently. This was the mid-1980s...computers were little more than word processors, the first newsletters were laid out by hand. In 1986, he brought us into the computer age with the purchase of a software package that allowed him to generate a newsletter quickly and

send directly to a printer. By the next day Sigma Phi Epsilon had a four-page, two color newsletter!

Brother Kuhlman is currently the Chief Communication Officer and Chief Marketing Officer for Bentley Motors Inc., The Americas. Jeff was formally the VP of Global Communications for Nissan and was the Director of Communications at General Motors and Audi of America.

Jeff and his wife, Karey, currently reside in Leesburg, Virginia. They have two daughters: Kate works in social media engagement for OmniCom Media Group based in Paris, France, and Kayla is attending university in Pretoria, South Africa. The Alumni Association is proud to honor Jeff and we thank him for his contributions as an undergrad and as a volunteer.

2018 District 13 Volunteer of the Year

Matt Blecke

Matt Blecke, Cincinnati '95, was chosen to receive the Volunteer of the Year award at Carlson Leadership Academy this past February. The award recognizes Matt's commitment to the Alumni and undergrads of Ohio Iota. He has served on our Alumni Board for 19 years! If you see Matt at this year's senior dinner please thank him for his contributions.



Sigma Phi Epsilon

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

Remember to Designate Your Gifts to UT!

When making gifts to UT, be sure to designate them to the Sig Ep Balanced Man Scholarship Fund, the Sig Ep Mandula Scholarship, the Springer Leadership Fund, the Bensman Scholarship, or the Sig Ep Presidents Club Scholarship. 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!