

The Red Door



OHIO IOTA CHAPTER OF SIGMA PHI EPSILON AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO – SEPTEMBER 2016

Patrick Ryan

Ohio Iota Hosts

Regional Member Development Conference

The Ohio State University, The University of Cincinnati, and The University of Toledo chapters partnered to host the first annual SigEp Member Development Conference this summer. This event is something that has never been done before on a national level.

The conference was held in August at UT and was well attended for its first year. Over 50 brothers



from Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, and Headquarters attended the event. Throughout the day, there were presentations on Sigma, Phi, Epsilon, Brother Mentor, accountability, mentorship, and many more. The content for the presentations was generated using the best practices of OSU, UC, and UT's knowledge on the respective subjects.

With feedback we've received, we plan on making next year's conference even bigger and better!

Brother Mentor Ceremony

We would like to invite past Brother Mentors to the House on Sunday, November 6, to witness the new brother mentor ceremony. Ceremony starts at 7:30 p.m.

Homecoming 2016

Please join us for this year's homecoming celebration.

An open house will be held on campus at the SigEp house on Friday, October 14, from 6 to 7 p.m. for folks wanting to see recent awards, the updated kitchen and new furniture. Afterwards, we will host a SigEp Social Hour at the Social Gastropub, located at 1440 Secor Road, from 7 to 9 p.m. Light appetizers will be provided. Full menu is available to order if desired.

Homecoming activities will continue on Saturday, October 15, with the parade party at 10:30 a.m. at the home of Tim and Sarah Croak, 2545 Middlesex Drive. The game will be held at 3:30 p.m. against Bowling Green State University. Tickets for the game can be purchased through the UT ticket office; phone 419 530-4653.

BECOME THE HOUSE!

Where will we be in 25 years? Most of you will remember the VP of Student Affairs who reigned from 1950 to 1992. Lance Thompson left a mark on Toledo's campus, and the University agreed to rename the Union as the Lancelot Thompson Student Union! What a great tribute! We lost a great man this year, who loved his house, and the University of Toledo. And it made me think, What house shall we become? Rick Stegman said it best at the memorial: This man made a difference we all wish we could be known for!

3530 Dorr Street ring a bell?? 335 Winthrop? They were all Houses, but to us, our Brotherhood made it a Sig Ep home. We just marked 25 years living on campus. We spent 16 years on Dorr Street, and 26 plus on Winthrop.

We are still growing, and as of today, over 1700 brothers call Ohio Iota their home. But as the years go by, we sure have had some wonderful homes for our chapter. But nothing is more important than the 125 lives on campus that we support with our time, efforts, and money! To me, that is my home. It is NOT the physical structure, but the House we built around these young men, who truly care and love being a part of our lives. It is my House, and I hope yours too.

Helping these undergraduate brothers succeed beyond college is the most rewarding part of this journey, and I hope more of you will find the path back home.

Some say: Home is where the heart is. Well, for me, Sig Ep is where my heart is, and I suppose that

is why I keep pushing our chapter each year to grow, prosper, and excel. But that is not my only desire. I also desire to have an Alumni Organization that clearly supports this vision. And we have come far since 2000. Yet, there is more to do, and some huge accomplishments we have yet to tackle!

We have Scholarship funds that have gone from \$30,000 in 2000 to over \$300,000 today! But why stop there? Why can't we do more?? You have an Alumni Board that was recognized as one of the best in the country, but do you know we so badly need more of our brothers to get involved and evolve our concepts! The Balanced Man program is for Actives and, YES, Alumni to enjoy, and has many rewards that far exceed the years in college. Brother Croak consistently looks for individuals who want to be a part of our Brother Mentor program. Could that be you? It's a great stepping stone to long-term commitment in Sig Ep!

Many of you are thinking: What can I do to help? There are so many ways to do it, and it's very simple:

- GIVE...Of your Time and Talents. You have something to offer, give it!
- GIVE... Some of your hard-earned assets to further our causes. Be a good financial GIVER.
- GIVE... Some of your expertise, so we can make the undergrads of our chapter prosper and flourish for years to come.

It just takes a push sometimes. We have a great board, diverse over many generations. Email me at tedohio@aol.com, and I can certainly find a way for you to help.

Jack Sample

Ruck Leadership Academy Experience

This summer I had the opportunity to travel to Richmond, Virginia, and spend 5 days with 120 SigEps from across the country at our fraternity's founding college. When I arrived at Ruck, I was assigned to my team of 22 members and was introduced to my incredible group facilitators. Ruck challenged my abilities and pushed me to stretch myself mentally as well as physically. As a small group of diverse SigEps, we had the unique experience to collaborate with a wide spectrum of chapters from across the country and hone in on similar issues and tackle them together. This collaboration, facilitated by the most incredible and knowledgeable Ruck facilitators, offered priceless

information that I have taken back to Ohio Iota. In addition, we dissected different pillars of leadership and how we can better our personal leadership styles for the betterment of our respective chapters.

My goal while at Ruck was to sharpen my skills on new member education and encouraging the hearts of new members through the Balanced Man Program. The Ruck motto, "Teaching the few to impact the many," encapsulated what my goal was for that week. Attending Ruck has forever changed my life by equipping me with skills and knowledge of how to inspire others and take lead in situations, and I am excited to share this with my brothers of Ohio Iota.

President Todd Klewer

Undergraduate President's Message

My name is Todd Klewer and I am the current president of the undergraduate chapter of Ohio Iota. Throughout the past semester and over the summer, the chapter has been busy as always. We have been continuing to live everyday with our cardinal principles of Virtue, Diligence, and Brotherly Love. I could not be more proud of the hard work and dedication that every member has put in this past semester.

At Songfest, our performance won us 2nd place in the fraternity division. We also had three members tapped into Blue Key Honor Society, four members tapped into Mortar Board National Honor Society, and brother Patrick Ryan was awarded the Gregory Lee Smith Underclassman of the Year Scholarship.

As the semester came to an end we were able to finish it off with the tri-fecta in Scholarship, Campus and Community Involvement, and Intramurals. We are ecstatic to be the only fraternity on campus to be awarded an Overall Chapter of Excellence award. We also recorded

a GPA of 3.365 with 128 active members. A great way to head into the summer!

We finished the summer with our annual undergraduate chapter retreat at Ted's lake house. This was a great way for our chapter to bond and develop new ideas with our amazing alumni board. After the retreat the entire chapter had the energy to make sure that we continued to stay driven and focused on our goals.

We started off the academic semester with a brand new event; the Ohio Member Development Conference. This was a great way for our chapter to collaborate with Ohio Theta (Cincinnati) and Ohio Gamma (Ohio State) to educate other chapters on how to run a successful BMP Program. Ohio Iota is again pioneering the way at the national level by taking collaboration to new heights with other regional chapters. We are excited to continue this event in the future!

We quickly found ourselves capitalizing on what was another successful summer of Balanced Man Scholarship interviews and applications. Nick Doseck, Jovan

Sanson, and Doryin Thames worked hard on executing the interview process and planning a wonderful dinner. We were honored to have the Mayor of Toledo be a keynote speaker for us! We had a successful recruitment week and welcomed 31 new members into our brotherhood! These high achieving and driven freshmen have impressed us with their potential and we are excited to develop them into even greater balanced men!

On October 15th, our Toledo Rockets football team will take on Bowling Green at 3 p.m. in the homecoming football game. We would like to invite all parents and alumni to campus that day to watch our chapter along with the ladies of Kappa Delta march in the homecoming parade and celebrate Rocky the Rocket's 50th birthday!

This upcoming school year we once again look to build on the remarkable accomplishments of our past and become an even better chapter. We look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming events and always love hearing from our alumni. The Red Door is always open.

Nick Doseck

The Balanced Man Scholarship

Starting in April the undergraduate members of Ohio Iota have been working day in and day out to put on a great face for SigEp through the Balanced Man Scholarship. Countless hours of stuffing envelopes, reading over applications, time on the road and interviews were put in over the summer by dedicated members of Ohio Iota. The Balanced Man Scholarship Banquet was held on August 27th to recognize all of the 50 finalists on their hard work and excellence as high school students. The banquet featured speeches from Darci Ault, Brother Donovan Nichols and the mayor of Toledo, Paula Hicks-Hudson. The mayor was so

impressed by the actions and integrity of our chapter that she gave Ohio Iota a shout out on social media. We awarded \$5,000 in scholarships to ten highly qualified recipients. The scholarship finalist read as follows:

- \$1,000 – Jordan Jones
- \$750 – Nick Coffman
- \$750 – Luke Gorbett
- \$500 – Caleb Budic
- \$500 – Michael Martin
- \$500 – Sean Halloran
- \$250 – Landon Bleau
- \$250 – Jordan Dionne
- \$250 – Matt Goodlin
- \$250 – Trevor Hickle

Using the Balanced Man Scholarship as a springboard, the

chapter set in on recruitment of new members for the fall. As a chapter, we focused on recruiting somebody for their potential for success, personal fit within SigEp, benefits for Ohio Iota and a goal-oriented individual. The goal for the fall recruitment was to ensure the utmost quality, while finding guys that mesh personality, to ensure a strong future for SigEp. This year there were distinct guidelines that needed to be followed for a member to receive a bid to join. These guidelines were to help ensure that we were recruiting the guys that followed our four areas of interest. This fall we took a class of 31 new members who are eager to give to Ohio Iota now and into the future.

Brandon Rosolowski

The Summer Adventures of a SigEp

The Tragos Quest to Greece is the pinnacle of the undergraduate experience offered by Sigma Phi Epsilon and is truly unmatched in the fraternity world. This experience was exactly what it implies, a quest, a long arduous search for something. By traveling the country of Greece, experiencing the ancient ruins, and interacting with the locals I began to understand just exactly why our founders chose to base our fraternity on the ideals of this beautiful culture. This quest has instilled in me a constant search for knowledge through the philosophical readings and ancient stories, and those stories were brought to life by visiting the sites where they took place. The mentors and professors challenged us physically and mentally and I came back with a better awareness of my mind and body. Our morning and evening discussions with the men gave me a chance to reflect on my virtues and the reasons why I live how I live. I learned how to utilize my strengths to develop myself and the chapter. Most importantly, these 18 strangers, professors, and mentors helped me find myself and have afforded me tools which I will cherish forever to help serve as a mentor and help those around me to live a balanced and healthy lifestyle.



Just two months after exploring the ancient Olympic Park in Olympia, Greece, I embarked on a journey to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, for two weeks for the Olympic Games. I set course on this journey with just my cousin by my side. It was just the two of us taking on this new city and country with people from over 206 countries. A part of me was nervous because of the Zika rumors, crime, and the language barrier, but I could sense that this trip would profoundly impact my life in one of the most positive ways

possible. We explored the beaches, Christ the Redeemer, experienced the local food, learned to samba, and just genuinely interacted with the locals and



people from across the globe. Some of the events we got to see were Men's Diving, Women's Gymnastics, Track and Field, Swimming, and Beach Volleyball. I was interviewed by the *Wall Street Journal* and even got to meet and interview Greg Louganis (4x Olympic gold medalist in diving) thanks to NBC. The city felt so alive and everyone I met was very welcoming. It was as if all the war, crimes, and hatred in the world disappeared. I came away from this experience with a bigger appreciation for the differences that we all have as humans from different backgrounds, cultures, and beliefs. It's what makes us all human and it's what makes us all unique. I became more optimistic, adventurous, and more open with people that I have never met before. I also learned that life is short and to take advantage of every experience that comes my way. The Olympic Games serve as a reminder to us all that we should care for one another. I will forever take this Olympic spirit with me wherever I go throughout life and wherever life takes me.



Scholarship Report

I wish you could hear the thank-you's, feel the gratitude, and experience the appreciation that scholarship winners display each and every year! It is all directed toward their Sig Ep Alumni who have paved the way before them. But you don't have to take my word for it. Following are real examples that I receive on behalf of our great alumni.

Pat Ryan, one of the first recipients of our new Sigma Phi Epsilon Presidents Club Scholarship – In Memory of Robert Gates, wrote:

"I just wanted to say thank you so much! I really appreciate the extra financial help and the money will go a long way toward books and access codes. I know I speak for the undergrads when I say that we are truly blessed to have such a dedicated and supportive Alumni network who are helping us to succeed both in and out of the classroom."

Jacob Pawelczyk was awarded the Dick and Kay Bensman Scholarship last fall, and wrote:

"Thank you so much for choosing me as the Bensman Scholarship recipient! I am extremely excited to have received this news and would like to extend my thanks to yourself, the rest of the AVC, and to Mrs. Bensman. This chapter has done so many incredible things for me during my time as an undergrad and this is another one of the reasons why Ohio Iota is one of the best chapters in the nation. "

Chris Mills was awarded the Margaret R. and John Mandula Jr. Challenge Fund last fall, and wrote:

"I would like to extend a very heart-felt thank you to the Mandula Family, the Alumni Board, and the rest of the individuals who have put forth their precious time and efforts for the consideration and selection of recipients for the Mandula Challenge Scholarship. I am extremely humbled to have been chosen as a recipient of this award. Sigma Phi Epsilon has made, undoubtedly, the greatest impact on my

entire life. I can't wait to see what lies on the road ahead."

Well, it's plain to see that you are making a difference for young Sig Eps now and into the future. We will award \$12,400 again this academic year. More than any previous year! It's on a roll and getting bigger and better all the time. Please continue to support our active brothers through our Sig Ep Scholarship funds!

Here is a summary of our Sig Ep funds:

SIGMA PHI EPSILON OHIO IOTA CHAPTER / BALANCED MAN SCHOLARSHIP (1300144)

DICK AND KAY BENSMAN SCHOLARSHIP FOR SIGMA PHI EPSILON (1301894)

RICHARD L. AND GAIL W. SPRINGER SIGMA PHI EPSILON LEADERSHIP FUND (1301386)

SIGMA PHI EPSILON MARGARET R. AND JOHN MANDULA JR. CHALLENGE FUND (1301204)

SIGMA PHI EPSILON PRESIDENT CLUB SCHOLARSHIP – IN MEMORY OF ROBERT GATES (1302113)

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!

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, Sig Ep Presidents Club Scholarship, or the Stegman Leadership 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!



Sigma Phi Epsilon

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

Grand Chapter Conclave

August 2-6, 2017

Orlando, Florida

Alumni Challenge!

Almost 30 active Toledo Sig Eps attended the last Conclave in Nashville – the largest of any chapter delegation. Much credit is due to Sig Ep Alumni who provided financial support to help make it possible. We know this is a great brother-building event that creates lifetime memories for our chapter and brothers.

This coming Conclave will be in Orlando, Florida and the expense will be an even bigger challenge. Our chapter is larger and the distance is greater. But our alumni are great and generous!

Our Alumni challenge to you is to sponsor an active brother for Conclave for \$500. This is a way you can make a direct and positive impact. Your tax-deductible contribution will help our active brothers with the cost of travel, registration, and hotel. The actives are already working hard and planning to raise money to send a large delegation to represent Ohio Iota. As alumni, we can help. We'll be working out details in the coming months, so plan now to include Sig Eps in your charitable giving plans for the upcoming year!