

The Red Door



OHIO IOTA CHAPTER OF SIGMA PHI EPSILON AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO – MARCH 2017

President Patrick Ryan

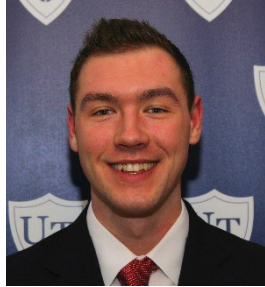
Undergraduate President's Message

My name is Patrick Ryan and I am the current president of the undergraduate chapter of Ohio Iota. Throughout the past semester the chapter has been very busy. We have been continuing to live every day 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.

This past fall semester has been one filled with many triumphs for Ohio Iota, from receiving a record high GPA of 3.46 with 120 active members to taking 1st place for the Homecoming Float. We recruited 31 stellar new members in the fall and they have gone on to be model students, leaders, and SigEps.

We started off the spring semester with our annual alumni board/executive board retreat at Ted's lake house. This was a great way for our executive members to bond and develop new ideas with our amazing alumni board. After the retreat the entire executive board had the fuel to make sure that the chapter continued to stay on top.

About a month after our retreat the executive board was joined by several other aspiring leaders from the chapter in Chicago for Carlson Leadership Academy. We brought home several awards including the Donald McCleary Member Development Award, brother Randy McCollough was selected for the Alumni and Distinguished Volunteer Award, and I



was selected as a Tragos Quest to Greece Scholar. Upon our return to Toledo we attended the Greek Recognition Night on campus. We were awarded a chapter of excellence standing, for having excelled in the areas of academics, brotherhood, recruitment & retention, risk management, and leadership. We were the only fraternity among all IFC fraternities to be awarded

five of the seven pillars of excellence. In addition to this, brother Jack Sample was awarded the Greek Man of the Year and brother Todd Klewer was recognized as the Greek President of the Year.

On April 1st SigEp will take the stage at SongFest, the University's second oldest tradition. Brothers Kevin Martin and Jason Schmedibush are putting in the extra time and effort to ensure Ohio Iota's outstanding performance. We have the momentum from a 2nd place finish last year and hope to take 1st for our routine this year.

This summer we look forward to the opportunity to send undergraduates to attend Conclave in Orlando, Florida. We look forward to the Buchanan Cup ceremony where we hope to bring home Gold once again for the 8th time in a row.

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.



Sigma Phi Epsilon Alumni and Senior Recognition Dinner

Date: April 8, 2016

Location: Table 44, 2nd Floor

610 Monroe Street, Toledo Ohio 43604

Free Parking available in lot across from the Shell gas station on Monroe St.

Cocktails at 6:00 p.m. Program starts at 7:00 p.m.

Cost is \$30.00

RSVP to Ted Behnken at tedohio@aol.com

Brotherhood . . . WE ALL NEED HEROS

My story in this edition of the *Red Door* is about Jay Gilchrist. Pin #258. 1958 Member of Sigma Phi Epsilon.

Jay passed away in September of 2015, at the age of 78. Now, for a lot of us, that is pretty young! Jay was a great Sig Ep, and never missed giving to our annual campaign. Since 2000, he never once missed giving to Sig Ep. He took care of his wife, who suffered for years. Jay lived his life with diligence and virtue, and when it came to brotherhood, remembered Sig Ep in his will. Incredible!

But as I did my internet search on Jay, I did not find a lot of information to help me with this article. I reached out to several of the brothers from his time, but to no avail. (But received a response from Joe Coley.)

So my mind started to wonder, why did Jay do this? I think he was very proud of Sig Ep, and his association with our chapter. Being Greek meant a lot

to him, and he left a bit of his life with us!

A few weeks ago, I learned that Jay and his wife decided to leave some of their estate to Sig Ep! We were very honored and humbled to be a part of their legacy, and, more than anything, excited that we can expand upon our vision!

THANK YOU JAY! Your commitment to Sig Ep is hereby noted, and we cherish your Brotherhood!

JAY IS OUR 2017 SIG EP HERO!

IT IS NEVER TO LATE to do what Jay did. Bensman, Springer, Gates, Mandula...I am positive that is why Jay did what he did. Paying it forward!

So my thoughts, as we come up to honoring our 2017 graduates: Think about what you could do to make a difference. Life is tough in college, and it is difficult to make ends meet. Being a Sig Ep Hero is what makes our chapter strive to be better. For in the end, you will insure that tomorrow will be well taken care of!

Brother Mark Harris Recognized for Career Achievement

Mark Harris, who pledged in 1980, will be honored at the annual Alumni Senior Dinner as this year's Career Achievement award recipient.

Mark has been in marketing and development since 1984. Prior to joining the Fund Development Team for the Ohio Masonic Home Foundation, he worked as Director of Marketing/Development for Goodwill Industries of Northwest Ohio. Mark has also served as Executive Director of Fund Development for ProMedica Health System's east and west regions, Director of Development at the Autistic Community of Northwest Ohio, and as Director of Communications



and Public Affairs for the Lucas County Children Services.

Mark has been a board member of the Ohio Children's Trust Fund, Hospice of Northwest Ohio, and the Aurora Project.

Additionally, Mark has served as pastor of New Hope Christian Church in Holland, Ohio; East Christian Church, Oregon, Ohio; and First Christian Church, Fostoria, Ohio.

Besides being an Alumni of Ohio Iota, Mark is a member of Rubicon Lodge #237 F. & A.M., Fort Meigs Chapter #29 R.A.M., Grafton Acklin Council #127 R. & S.M., Toledo Commandery #7 K.T., Valley of Toledo A.A.S.R., and Zenobia Shrine.

Joey Steller

My Conclave Experience

My time at conclave was one of the best experiences I have had in my college years. My first experience with conclave was during the summer of 2015. As a SigEp who had just completed his first year of college, I was still relatively new to the fraternity. I felt there was still a lot this fraternity could offer me that I had not gotten to experience yet. I knew that going to the national conference was a rare opportunity that would help me get the most out of this fraternity and my college experience.

While at Conclave in Nashville, my passion for our chapter grew tremendously. I was given the opportunity to go to different lectures and workshops to get ideas that would help advance the growth of our chapter. I was able to meet people from other chapters and make connections with them, and I was able to strengthen my relationships with our alumni.

The awards ceremony at the Grand Ole Opry was my favorite part of the experience, though. Here we were one of the few chapters to be awarded a golden



Buchanan cup. This gave me an inconceivable amount of pride in my chapter and let me know I am a part of something special. Conclave was an incredible experience for me and it was an experience I will never forget.



Pat Ryan and his parents receiving the Tragos Quest to Greece

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 brotherhood-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!

Please consider a gift to help send an active brother to National Conclave.

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.

*Make Checks payable to: Sigma Phi Epsilon Education Foundation
In the memo write: Ohio Iota Direct Fund–Conclave2017*

Mail to: Jenn Harter, 310 South Boulevard, Richmond VA 23220

It is also possible to make a credit card contribution online using the link below. Please choose “OH Iota Direct Scholarship Fund” under Chapter Scholarship Gift in the Choose a Scholarship dropdown.

<https://sigep.org/chapterscholarships>

Sigma Phi Epsilon Scholarship Report

Another 16 individual scholarships and over \$12,000 were awarded from our Sig Ep Scholarship Funds this year! Our alumni support is so appreciated by the undergraduates! I hear it often. It is something that really makes our chapter stand out on the UT campus. From recruitment to scholarship to participation, the alumni support makes a significant and positive difference in our chapter. In addition to individual scholarships, the Sig Ep Springer Fund provides funding for 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 2016-2017 academic year:

Balanced Man Scholarships awarded Fall Semester 2016:

Jordan Jones	Michael Martin
Luke Gorbett	Sean Halloran
Nick Coffman	Landon Bleau
Caleb Budic	Jordan Dionne
Matthew Goodlin	Trevor Hickie

Bensman Scholarship awarded Fall Semester 2016:

Anthony Beier

Mandula Challenge Fund awarded Fall Semester 2016:

Ryan Javorek
Jacob Garfield
Bradford Smith

Robert Gates President’s Fund awarded Fall Semester 2016:

Patrick Ryan
Todd Klewer

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!

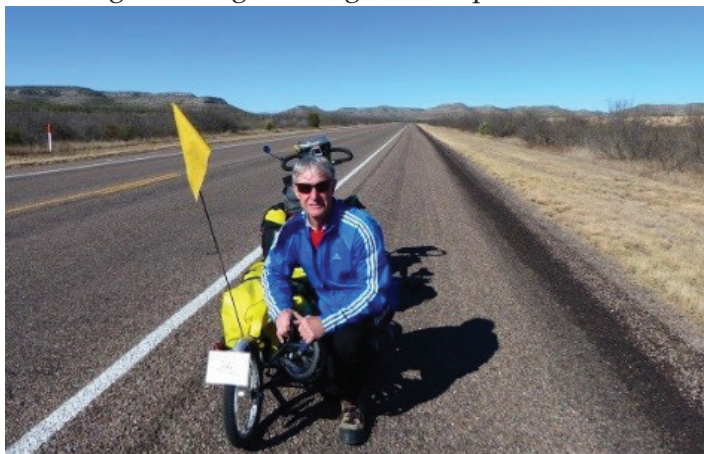
Founder's Circle Awarded to Alan Thompson

We look forward to honoring Brother Alan Thompson as our Founder's Circle award winner at the Alumni Senior Dinner.

Al pledged in the spring of 1968 and recalls, "my fraternity years were some of the most significant of my life, during which lifelong friendships were formed." Alan went on to have a 31-year career in Sylvania schools teaching junior high World and American History.

In 1985 he took a year's sabbatical from teaching to travel around the world on his bicycle, peddling almost 10,000 miles. He detailed his adventure in his book titled *One Time Around – A Solo World Bicycle Journey*. Even more, in 2005, he traveled 4,000 miles on the Lewis and Clark Trail from St. Louis to Astoria, Oregon, to gather background for a reenactment program while raising funds for the Alzheimer's Association, American Cancer Society, and Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

Please join us in honoring Brother Alan Thompson, who has truly embodied what our founders envisioned for men graduating from Sigma Phi Epsilon.



Rich Schneider Honored for Service to the Alumni Board



Rich Schneider pledged Sigma Phi Epsilon in the fall of 1974 and held positions such as Social Chairman where he formed "many great friendships and too many good stories to share!"

Rich graduated with a BA in Communications and a Business Minor, in 1978. He married his wife and fellow UT grad, Stephanie (Buckosh) in April of 1982. They have two children, Jacob (31) and Natalie (29). Jacob was also a SigEp while he attended UT.

Rich has lived in the Detroit area for over 32 years and been in the construction industry working for various manufacturers his entire career. He is presently the Michigan manager for Intek Construction Products and has been an independent Manufacturer's Rep for more than 10 years, calling on architects, glazing contractors and metal contractors. The Alumni Association is proud to honor Rich and thank him for his service.

2017 District 13 Volunteer of the Year Randy McCullough

Randy McCullough, Toledo '80, was chosen to receive the Volunteer of the Year award at Carlson Leadership Academy this past February. The award recognizes Randy's outstanding efforts in organizing and facilitating Ohio Iota's approximately \$300,000 in scholarship endowments.

These scholarships are key to sending members to leadership conferences and offsetting the cost of tuition.

Please join us at the senior dinner when we present Randy with the award and honor 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!