

The Red Door



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

Austin Fisher

Conclave 2017

Conclave is the greatest experience a brother of Sigma Phi Epsilon can partake in. After my freshman year of college, I was blessed with the opportunity to join my brothers in Orlando, Florida for the 55th Grand Chapter Conclave. From witnessing the unique history of our past, learning new modules for our chapter, and interacting with undergraduates and alumni from across the country, Conclave was an event that I will remember forever.

On the first day, brothers have the rare opportunity to observe the Epsilon ritual from 1901 to today, side by side. The rituals demonstrate that no matter how much we conform to the current day, we will always stick to our roots of virtue, diligence, and brotherly love. Conclave provided countless of modules for alumni and undergraduates to improve the chapter's



balanced man program, financials, and residential learning community, as well as improving your personal life.



Throughout the weekend, I met countless brothers from New York to California and discovered the differences from one chapter to another. The relationships you can form by just being a SigEp opens the door for numerous opportunities.

From Conclave, my fire of passion and desire for Ohio Iota grew immensely. I was able to brainstorm fresh ideas from the modules and new connections with other chapters to bring back to Toledo. My eyes were widened after the weekend and I realized that we are a part of something much bigger than ourselves. If you have not taken the time to make the biennial event, you are missing out on one of the greatest opportunities as a brother of Sigma Phi Epsilon.

Homecoming 2017

Please join us for this year's homecoming celebration.

On Friday, October 6, we will host a SigEp Social Hour at the Social Gastropub, located at 1440 Secor Rd., from 7 to 9 PM. Light appetizers will be provided. Full menu is available to order if desired.

Homecoming activities will continue on Saturday, October 7, with the parade party at the home of Tim and Sarah Croak, 2545 Middlesex Dr. The homecoming parade will start at 8:00 AM (if 12:00 game) or 10:30 AM (if 3:30 game).

Tickets for the game and the latest information on homecoming activities can be found at www.utoledo.edu/homecoming.

Undergrad 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 GPA of 3.39 with 105 active members to taking 2nd place at Songfest: Rockets Reloaded. We recruited 13 stellar new members this spring and they have the fire and drive to leave their impact on the campus and community, in true SigEp fashion.

This August we traveled to Orlando, Florida where we spent five days learning about how to be better brothers, leaders, and SigEps. While at Conclave, we took home a Gold Buchanan Cup once again, making it our 8th consecutive cup that we've received. The recognition for Ohio Iota didn't stop there, as brother Jack Sample was awarded with Brother Fellow status, making him the second brother from our chapter to receive the highest honor given at a National level.

We started off the fall semester with a chapter retreat, where we covered everything from recruitment to goal setting and everything in between. Our new Regional Director, Shawn Cable,

stopped by to help lead the conversation to get us in the right mindset to recruit the future of the chapter. This meeting was a great way for our brothers to bond and develop new ideas with our amazing headquarters staff. After the retreat the entire chapter had the fuel to make sure that the chapter continued to stay on top of our Greek community locally and nationally.

About two weeks after our retreat, we had a successful recruitment week and welcomed 33 new members into our brotherhood! These high-achieving and driven men have impressed us with their potential and we are excited to develop them into even greater balanced men!

On October 7th, our Toledo Rockets football team will take on Eastern Michigan in the homecoming football game. The on campus house will be open for visitors to stop by and view scrapbooks or simply tour the house three hours prior to game time. We look forward to the festivities and celebrating another wonderful year at the University of Toledo.

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.

Grand Chapter Conclave 2017

Alumni Support

THANK YOU!!

Many thanks to Ohio Iota Alumni who contributed financial support to our undergraduate brothers. We raised just over \$8500 to help send the second largest delegation in the country! Toledo Sig Eps were represented by more than 30 guys and was a force noticed by all at the biggest Sig Ep event ever. I watched in awe as our young brothers grew, learned, bonded, and created lifetime memories of Sigma Phi Epsilon. I've mentioned before how expensive it is to travel and attend such an event. Your generosity made it possible for many more brothers to experience conclave and I saw firsthand the fruit of your contributions. I've come to believe that the Conclave experience is among the most important for our chapter and serves as a catalyst for motivation and success for the following two years.

Randy McCullough, a proud OHIO IOTA SIG EP ALUM!

HERO 365

Why Sig Ep? Why be a Hero for our brotherhood?

I have a little story...and it goes like this.... A few weeks ago, I met a young man that was in his senior year at Toledo. Quality...You Bet, and a Man that always wanted to be a Sig Ep. But as a senior, he felt that Greek Life was no longer an option for him, and that he was proud of his accomplishments on campus and how far he had come. I spent some time with him, and after a week or so, he responded that again, Greek Life was not in his future. My response was simple; it's not a four year program, but a commitment of a lifetime of brotherhood. It's when you're down in the Outer Banks, or New York, or Seattle, you often run into others that share our brotherhood. It all guarantees us a friend is out there, no matter where we are in the world. We passed 1700 through our ranks, and the 2000 Member of Toledo Sig Ep is just a few years away!

Ohio Iota is growing so quickly. More quality men want our brotherhood every day, and find that what we stand for is something that other fraternities cannot offer. Our men consistently place first in grades, and many of them take leadership roles in other groups to help them prosper. They are athletes, and believe in the concept of the balanced man. They follow the same ritual we used when we were undergrads, but somehow, they have taken the words

and live them every day!

At Conclave, we had the chance to acknowledge these efforts with our 8th Buchanan Cup in a row, covering the years of 2001 to 2017, never once losing sight of our ideals! In all of the 80s and 90s, we had three Cups. It's hard to argue the success, but when you get to know these guys, you can see the quality of Ohio Iota.

We are always looking for great men to be brothers of Sig Ep. Even after college, if there is someone out there that meets our character and ideals, let me know. We have a great program called Renaissance of Brotherhood, where we initiate someone that truly fits our ideals but may have not had the opportunity of our experience as an undergrad!

I believe In Sig Ep. I believe that our Fraternity is blazing the way to make our world better. I believe the member development program has truly transformed Toledo, and keeps members engaged beyond a nine-week pledge program. The benefits are so numerous, it is hard to find any fault with the concept. I would offer any of you the opportunity to experience Ritual, or to go through our Brother Mentor Ceremony.

We need more Heros at Toledo, and if you have time to help in some way, reach out and let us know!

First Brother Mentor Alliance Dinner

All brother mentors, both active chapter and alumni,
are invited and encouraged to attend the
first annual Brother Mentor Alliance Dinner.

It will be held in the downstairs area of El Camino
on the corner of Douglas and Sylvania
on Monday, October 30 at 6:00 p.m.

Please RSVP to Tim Croak at
tcroak@cfpohio.com or 419 779-1004.

Sigma Phi Epsilon Scholarship Report

Many thanks to all of you who continue to support our scholarship funds! We just finished awarding 10 Balanced Man Scholarships totaling \$5000 to kick off the 2017-2018 academic year. We're on track to award over \$10,000 in scholarships again this year. In addition to helping young brothers with the financial burden of college expenses, our scholarship program really sets Sig Ep apart from other fraternities and organizations on campus. Scholarships help attract great brothers to carry on our values and traditions.

Please remember our scholarship funds for your annual giving and estate plans. What a great legacy we are leaving for Sig Ep, Ohio Iota, and Toledo! Contact Randy McCullough with any thoughts, questions, or ideas.

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!**

Cullin Smith

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 26th to recognize all of the 40 finalists for their hard work and excellence as high school students. The banquet featured speeches from Darci Ault, Brother Donovan Nichols and the Director of the Edward Schmidt School of Professional Sales, Deidre Jones.

We awarded \$5,000 in scholarships to ten highly qualified recipients. The scholarship finalists read as follows: \$1,000 – Nick Singlar; \$750 – Donny Griesmer; \$750 – Nathaniel Mayle; \$500 – Spencer Traub; \$500 – Alexander Ritton; \$500 – Preston Ewald;



\$250 – Nicholas Brautigam; \$250 – Johnathan Hayes; \$250 – Logan Perlaky; \$250 – David Straub.

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 33 new members who are eager to give to Ohio Iota now and into the future.

Patrick Ryan

Tragos Quest to Greece

This summer, I was selected to attend the Tragos Quest to Greece. This intense 10-day crash course study abroad trip immerses the scholars deep in Greek culture, philosophy, and history as they learn more about themselves, their brothers, and SigEp. The application and selection of scholars is a highly competitive process, but Ohio Iota has had a Tragos Scholar for the last three years in a row.

While abroad, we traveled all over Greece making many stops at historically significant locations. From Athens to Delphi, we toured the country while contemplating our ties to the country as a Greek letter organization and so much more. While I don't quite



have the words to describe how profoundly impactful the experience was, I can say it's something I'll never forget.

I would like to thank the Alumni, both near and far, who devote their time, talent, and treasure to supporting our chapter. Without your support, it wouldn't have been possible for undergraduates like myself to be in a position to be selected for such a prestigious experience.

Bryce Johnston

Ruck Leadership Academy Experience

This past summer I had the amazing opportunity to travel to Richmond, Virginia, and spend five days with more than 120 SigEps from across the country at our fraternity's founding college. The Frank J. Ruck Leadership Institute is an intense five-day event for SigEp's rising leaders that utilizes a program focused on personal leadership skills and the Balanced Man Ideal. Prominent SigEp alumni serve as mentors and guide Ruck scholars through competitive challenges and lessons in leadership. I was privileged with having John Hartman guide me through challenging myself and my ideals to build myself into a better leader and develop the skillset needed to take back to my home chapter here in Toledo. In our small groups, we discussed common problems of Greek life

and pushed each other to fix these problems within our chapters. This collaboration, facilitated by the most incredible and knowledgeable Ruck facilitators, offered priceless information that I have taken back to Ohio Iota. My goal at Ruck was to be able to learn how to develop the leadership skills necessary to create a community service event for the Ohio Iota chapter that raises money for the local area, as well as retaining older member attendance through a more heightened Balanced Man Program. The motto of Ruck is, "teaching the few to impact the many" and this life-changing experience has certainly encouraged me to bring back these lessons to Toledo. I am excited to start programming events this year and encouraging the heart of my fellow brothers of Ohio Iota.



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!