

The Red Door



OHIO IOTA CHAPTER OF SIGMA PHI EPSILON AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO – MARCH 2022

Aiden Warncke

Undergraduate President's Message

My name is Aiden Warncke, and I am bestowed with the honor and privilege of serving as the 72nd President of the Ohio Iota Chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon. I am a Senior studying Management and Marketing, and am a graduate of Archbold High School in Archbold, Ohio.

This past fall semester was one of great success for the chapter. We once again were atop the IFC ranks for chapter GPA. That now marks 39 semesters straight for Ohio Iota being the top GPA among IFC! Furthermore, we were named the 2021 Greek Chapter of the Year. This is a recognition for all of our brothers and how they were able to navigate through the pandemic while finding innovative ways to lead, get involved, and give back to the community.

We began the spring 2022 semester by assembling with the AVC board at brother Ted Behnken's (OGH) lake house for our annual executive board retreat. Chapter meetings and rituals are both back in-person again. The executive board has placed an emphasis on engagement amongst brothers at meetings and passion at rituals. This Spring, brothers are feeling a strong sense of purpose and direction within the chapter.

On February 24, we hosted our Philanthropy Dinner, Sig Ep Slices, in which we offered pizza, chips, and an assortment of beverages to the

Toledo Community. All of the proceeds went to the Unbound Artist Development Community, an organization that helps provide a unique space for thriving artists in Toledo. We were able to utilize the on-campus house to host the dinner. In total, we were able to raise \$1,300 for the community.

On April 9, we will be taking the stage at SongFest, the University's second oldest tradition. On April 29 at 7 p.m. we will be having our Senior Alumni Dinner at Table 44 in Downtown Toledo. We hope to see you all in attendance!

We appreciate your unbroken support for this chapter, past, present, and future. Our successes are not possible without your continued support as we continue to build upon the foundation of greatness you all set before us. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events, and you are always invited to stop by the on-campus house and get to know some of the undergraduate brothers. The Red Door is always open.



2022 Senior and Alumni Annual Awards Dinner

All are welcome!

Friday, 29 April 2022

6 p.m. cocktails | 7 p.m. dinner | \$30.00

Table Forty 4

610 Monroe Street, Toledo, Ohio 43604

RSVP at sigeptoledo.com

Judge Martin Burchfield '83

Career Achievement

Judge Martin D. Burchfield serves the Van Wert County Commons Pleas Court General Division. Judge Burchfield was appointed in December 2014 by Governor John Kasich and since elected and reelected to the office. Judge Burchfield is a member of the Ohio Common Pleas Judges Association and currently serves as a trustee.

Prior to the judiciary he practiced law in a general practice for over 28 years, trying cases in fourteen counties and federal court in Northwest Ohio. For 15 years starting in 1999 he served as a part-time prosecuting attorney handling juvenile cases, felonies and civil matters for the county.

Brother Burchfield served on the Van Wert City Council from 1988 till 1996, the last six years as President of Council. He was a member of the Van Wert County Republican Central and Executive



Committee from 1989 till 2014, serving as Chairperson from 1996 till 2014. He served as campaign chairperson for the County Committee and as county regional chairman for several statewide and national candidates. In 2000 he was an alternate delegate to the Republican National Convention.

He is a member of the Van Wert Service Club and a past president of the same. He served as president of the Van Wert Kiwanis in 1992. He is a member of the First United Methodist Church having served several committees including Chair of the Finance Committee, lay servant and as a lay speaker.

In 1985 he married Golden Heart Susan Johnson. They are blessed with two children, William (Allison) Burchfield of Lexington, Kentucky, and Alexis (Matthew) Lickenbrock of Cincinnati, Ohio.

Ted Behnken '82

Alumni Board President's Message

FINALLY! WE ARE READY TO SOAR IN 2022! It has been a tough couple of years, and I realize it has been tough for everyone!

Just a Quick Recap...We received our 10th Buchanan Cup in a row, representing 20 years of Excellence!

But my most exciting news ... the Brothers of the 335 Winthrop era, under the leadership of Al Thompson, provided the necessary funding to install new letters for the campus house. Raising over \$7,500, Al must be commended for his hard work and dedication. We plan to unveil them at Homecoming 2022!

After 30 years, UT is talking about new housing at UT for the Greeks. We do not know what it will look like, but the University is looking for ideas. We are excited to hear that news, and hopefully have a new home in the next five years.

Nationally, Sig Ep is thriving under the leadership of Brian Warren. It has been a bumpy road for them as well, and with all of the issues surrounding student safety, Sig Ep has not had a claim on our insurance for five years running. That is great news! Sig Ep is leading the way.

Last, Homecoming 2022 will happen! I promise! Keep your ears open...and your schedule free. **PLAN ON ATTENDING: OCTOBER 1, 2022.** We plan on a big blowout! Please mark your calendar.



Matt Blecke '95

Volunteer Excellence Award

Matt Blecke resided in Toledo from 1995 to 2021. During his 26 years in Northwest Ohio, he spent countless hours giving back to our fraternity and to our chapter. He held different roles on Ohio Iota's alumni council, with most of his time spent as the Chapter Counselor. Matt attended over six Conclaves and volunteered at the Carlson Leadership Academy as a faculty member for development modules. He was a member of University of Toledo's Review and Rebuild Committee in 2000 while also volunteering for Sig Ep's University of Michigan and University of Cincinnati chapters.

Matt is a 1995 graduate of the University of Cincinnati. At UC, he co-started Habitat for Humanity UC Chapter, played on the JV and Varsity Rower Club team, and was a member of the Student

Alumni Council. He was an undergrad member of Sig Ep Ohio Theta from 1992-1995 and spent time on their executive board as the Alumni Operations Director.

Matt recently moved near Nashville, Tennessee to begin a new journey in his professional career with Bridgestone. His love for Sig Ep is strong, as he believes he would not be where he is today without this fraternity. Ohio Iota is positioned for self-sustained success due to Matt's 26 years of selfless devotion to our chapter.



Robert Urfer '69

Founders Circle Award



Robert "Bob" Urfer grew up in Bryan, Ohio. He chose to attend the University of Toledo, and majored in Pharmacy. He chose Toledo as his home for 58 years. In 1964, as Bob focused on his studies, he realized he needed to broaden his social world and joined

Sigma Phi Epsilon. It was one of the best choices in his life. This brotherhood opened a whole new world of brothers seeking diverse careers. His Pin number is 426!

Pharmacy college required numerous labs which took much of his social time away. He remembers being known as the "phantom

brother," due to having so little time to appreciate the purpose for joining—to party and socialize.

After his time in school, Sig Ep moved from the palatial Winthrop house to Dorr Street and then finally to campus.

His life in Toledo has been filled with 30 years of hospital pharmacy, eight years of store ownership, and 50 years of marriage to his incredible wife Christina. They have two children and four grandchildren.

Although Bob would not tell you, he is an incredible and humble individual, and also served on the Ohio Iota Alumni Housing Corporation. Many of us remember that group, which help to purchase 3530 Dorr Street, and with his guidance the mortgage was paid off early!



Sigma Phi Epsilon Scholarship Report

Spotlight on BMS

Our original scholarship fund is Ohio Iota's flagship funding source for our Balance Man Scholarship (BMS). The BMS has evolved into more than just a scholarship. It has become a guiding light to young brothers, steering them to our fraternity principles. Let's take a minute to remember the history of BMS and why it came to be.

The BMS originated in the early 90's as a way to attract young men of Sound Mind and Sound Body, while rewarding them for espousing the ideals of Sig Ep. It starts as the foundation of recruitment and continues as the basis of education for young members of Ohio Iota. BMS scholarships attract applicants leading balanced lives and growing toward greater heights. Today, every Sig Ep Chapter across the country implements BMS tailored toward their campus environment. From recruitment, to campus involvement, to academic achievement, to brotherhood, the BMS framework provides a consistent plan to implement daily activities into the college life.

Today, our BMS Scholarship Fund provides \$5000 annually to fund BMS programming in the Fall. Ohio Iota BMS is unique among student organizations at Toledo and provides a big advantage for recruitment and membership throughout the year.

There is one more important point about BMS. It has been generously funded through the years by Ohio Iota Alums. A big "Thank You" to all who have helped make BMS part of our Sig Ep identity.

If you would like to help make a difference for Sig Ep, please give. If you have questions, please contact me for more information.

Recent scholarship awards:

BALANCED MAN:

Sean Thomas Hanna
Amol Koli
Cory Thomas

BENSMAN:

Greg Shulkosky
Nathan Hennessy
Ricardo Flores

MANDULA:

Gavin Pokersnik
Jonathan Paris Kopacz
Sami Alchakaki
Thomas Rega

PRESIDENTS CLUB:

Collin Mischak

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)

Ricardo Flores '23

The Conclave Recap

Last summer, eleven members of Sig Ep had the privilege of attending the 57th Annual Grand Chapter Conclave in Denver, Colorado with a handful of the many leaders we have within our chapter. During our time in Denver, we enjoyed the many modules Sig Ep nationals provided; members attended mental health modules, ritual study with other chapters across the nation, or how to be a better leader within one's perspective chapter. It's because of the initiative that these leaders capitalize on that we are one of the leading chapters in the nation.

Expanding our knowledge is one of the many important reasons for attending Conclave, but we also are there to have fun and in hopes of bringing back THE GOLD!!! Ohio Iota worked very diligently throughout the strict enforcement of COVID-19 related policies at our institution. Our chapter had a hard time during the thick of the pandemic because we were trying to meet members' expectations while adhering to policies put on by the university. The executive board reflected on the cardinal principle of diligence—they weren't going to settle for less. The chapter house became a hub for general members to



take a break from studies and other strains that may have been caused during these times. It is because of the strong brotherhood and wanting to help others in tough times we received our 6th Gold Buchanan Cup at Conclave!

Gold Buchanan Cups not only show nationals we are an excellent chapter, but it also shows our whole chapter network that we never settle for the minimum. Ohio Iota is always striving and working for the next best thing to set us apart from chapters on a national level.

Here's to Conclave 2023 in San Antonio, Texas!

Angelo Iachini '13

Carlson Leadership Academy

The weekend of February 4-6th, along with five undergraduates, I attended the Carlson Leadership Academy (CLA) in Chicago. Ron Binder also attended because of his role with the national fraternity as a district governor. For those who are unaware, CLA is a yearly event aimed at helping the undergraduate executive board create a vision and goal for the upcoming year. Multiple academies are held across the country so every chapter can attend one.

This year was a little different from years past. Typically Ohio Iota will take 15-20 members to help in their leadership and growth. Unfortunately due to the COVID pandemic we were only allowed to take five executive board members and one alumnus. The five executive members included the President, Chaplain, VP of Recruitment, VP of Member Development, and a new position, VP of Sig Ep Learning Communities. This new position's main goal is to create a healthy environment at the chapter home to help members develop skills such as communication, conflict and stress management, and decision making.



The weekend was a great success. Ohio Iota was able to take ideas from multiple chapters and bring them back to Toledo so we can have another successful year. Nick Wischmeier was given an award for his exemplary job as Vice President of Recruitment in 2021. We look forward to the year ahead and continuing to build upon the great foundation of Ohio Iota.



Sigma Phi Epsilon

Ohio Iota Alumni Association

3523 Kenwood, Toledo, OH 43606

Sig Eps Soaring Past Seventy!

Toledo Sig Eps are again preparing to Soar Past Seventy with our 2022 Homecoming and 72nd Birthday Celebration! Put Homecoming 2022 on your calendar now and plan to join Ohio Iota Brothers and Golden Hearts. It's a great day to be a Sig Ep!