

The Red Door



OHIO IOTA CHAPTER OF SIGMA PHI EPSILON AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO - MARCH 2025

2025 Senior and Alumni Annual Awards Dinner

All are welcome!

Friday, 18 April 2025

6 p.m. cocktails | 7 p.m. Dinner | \$35

ICE Restaurant | 405 Madison Avenue, Downtown Toledo

RSVP at sigeptoledo.com

Samuel Yonker, '27

Undergraduate President's Message

My name is Samuel Yonker, and I am bestowed with the honor of serving as the 75th President of the Ohio Iota Chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon. I am currently a sophomore studying a double major in Professional Sales and Management. In the Fall semester we once again led the village in academics with a 3.47 GPA! This marks 45 straight semesters for Ohio Iota topping IFC in GPA!

In the Spring, our chapter raised \$2,000 during our very own Sig Ep Sliders. The proceeds were donated to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwestern Ohio. This past Fall, Brother Shawn Monteiro led the efforts in starting Sig Ep Shakes where we collaborated with Relay for Life in order to create more attention for both events. In doing this, we raised \$2,161 and donated all proceeds to the American Cancer Society. Additionally, we collaborated with Triangle to do our second Annual Haunted House which raised \$500 for Sunshine Communities!

This semester began with the Carlson Leadership Academy in Pittsburgh, where we also held our Executive Retreat. At this retreat, we shared great conversations about our goals and desires to push this great chapter to be even better. We have been working our way towards these goals, fully transitioning to SigeptU instead of the BMP tracker, boosting attendance at meetings and social events, and improving our 365

recruitment efforts.

Spring recruitment is always a challenging task, but the chapter was well commanded this semester. Led by the Vice President of Recruitment, Brother TJ Huber, we recruited 6 outstanding new members! These numbers are not finalized because we are still looking to recruit more members through 365 by the end of the semester.

We will be hosting our Philanthropy Dinner (Sig Ep Sliders) on April 17th at the Chapter House where we will serve sliders and mac n cheese. On April 5th, around 20 brothers will be taking the stage for SongFest. Directed by Julian Garcia, Richard Woodward, and Shawn Monteiro, we are very optimistic about bringing home a First-Place award for the first time since 2018!

To wrap up the semester, our annual Senior Dinner will be held at the ICE Restaurant in downtown Toledo at 6 p.m. All of our undergraduate brothers would love to see you there! We appreciate your unbroken support for this chapter. The chapter is fortunate to have the continued support of active alumni. We hope to see all of you at our upcoming events and remind you that you are always welcome to come to the on-campus house. As most of you know, the Red Door is always open.



Flying at 75!

Alumni Board President's Report

As many of you know, our 75th Anniversary is this Fall, 2025. We are working on a celebration event that will honor our founders, and those that are still with us! We still have several of our founding members still on earth, and it would be great to have them with us to share our common bonds of brotherhood.

Ohio Iota became a chapter on September 30, 1950. Under the direction of our First President Robert Gates, we will have brothers with us like Tom Schnell and Dick Springer. Brother Springer (Spelling) was our first treasurer. I hope we can see them at our celebration.

We are looking for Class Volunteers to help make this happen. Please reach out to me (tedohio1@gmail.com) or my cell 419-346-4700. Love to have you help us make this a memory.

With everything that is going on in this world, Brotherhood can reach further and create bonds that far exceed our daily lives ! More To Come on Sig Ep 2025 !

CONCLAVE SPONSORS. Please Reach out to me to send a Brother to Conclave 2025 in Tampa!

As well, get involved. I am well into my 40 years of service, and time is ticking. I would love to see others get involved, so we have a seamless transition ! It truly is a great day to be a Sig Ep !

Grand Chapter Conclave

July 23-27, 2025

Tampa, Florida

Conclave is a special experience, and brothers are able to be a part of the experience, in part, due to Sig Ep Alumni that 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 Tampa, Florida and the expense will be a big challenge. But our alumni are great and generous! Please consider a gift to help send an active brother to National Conclave. Send a check to Sig Ep Conclave, 3523 Kenwood Boulevard, Toledo, Ohio 43606 or email Ted (TedOhio1@gmail.com) or Randy (Randy@TheMcCulloughs.us) for more information.



Career Achievement Award

Graduating from the University of Toledo in 1980 with a BSME in Thermodynamics, Kent Ernsberger began his career with the Fighter Pilot Ohio Air National Guard. After serving his country for 4 years, he switched to a part-time position as he pursued a career with USAirways. There, he started as a flight engineer before progressing to an Airman and then an Airbus and Boeing 777 Captain.



Notably, in October 2015, US Airways officially ceased operations as it completed its merger with American Airlines. As part of this transition, Flight 1939—named after the year the airline's predecessor, All-American Aviation, was founded—was selected as the final US

Airways flight. After flying with the company for 30 years, Ernsberger had the honor of piloting one of the segments of this flight, marking a historic moment in aviation history. Reflecting on the significance of the occasion, Ernsberger shared that being part of this final journey held deep personal meaning for him. "There's some inner importance for me to fly this trip. I can't quite put my finger on it," he remarked, emphasizing the pride he took in his career and the airline he served.

As the airline transitioned into American Airlines, Ernsberger remained a pilot, representing the professionalism and dedication that defines pilots. Following his retirement from American Airlines in March of 2023, he began to work as a Boeing 777, 767, 757 instructor with Delta Professional Services. Within this role, Ernsberger aspires to help other pilots leave an impact in the field of aviation that he has been involved with his whole life. Throughout his career, he navigated countless routes, ensuring the safety and comfort of passengers while upholding the highest standards of professionalism. His extensive experience made him a trusted figure among both his colleagues and passengers. His career is a testament to the commitment and skill required to be a commercial airline pilot, and his involvement in such a historic flight ensured his place in aviation history.

Mark Christoff, '83

Volunteer Award Winner

Originally from Toledo, Mark Christoff went to St. Francis De Sales High School before joining SigEp at the University of Toledo in Fall 1979. He attributed his reason for joining the chapter in part to the cool purple jackets, but mostly due to the brothers that he interacted with. While in the chapter, Mark made the most of his time. He participated in Songfest, got front row seats to basketball games through a brother, attended Conclave, volunteered at Raft Regatta, and participated in various intramurals, including being the intramural weightlifting champion. He balanced all these activities while working at Toledo Hospital.

After graduating in 1983 with a degree in Business Administration, Mark found himself in financial services where he worked in real estate, life insurance, and investments. However, he did have a hiatus where his interest in law took him on a 10-year detour as a courtroom bailiff in the Perrysburg Municipal Court. Currently, he works as a factoring and business funding broker.

Mark served as an alumnus on the board of directors of the Sigma Phi Epsilon Ohio Iota Alumni Householding Corporation. He played an instrumental part in helping the chapter secure an on-campus house. After selling the old house on Dorr St, the householding corporation merged with the alumni board.

In his spare time, Mark has a hobby collecting, buying, and selling WWII medals and related items, political buttons, old police & other badges. Mark currently resides in Monclova Township with his wife, Beth.



Founders' Circle Award



Jay Sopko joined the Chapter in Fall 1974. While in the chapter he served as house manager, recording secretary, and coordinator for the Golden Hearts. As house manager, Jay earned the much-coveted nickname: "Hard Ass". This was attributed to his no-nonsense attitude and respect he had from brothers in the chapter. At Toledo he met his future wife Diane Sopko, a SigEp Golden Heart. Together, they have 3 children and 7 grandchildren.

Growing up, Jay wanted to be an electrician, but after attending UT, he found a passion for mechanical engineering. Thinking back, he realized that he was always fascinated with motorcycles and cars, remembering his times with his dirt bike that he had as a kid. He graduated in 1979 with a degree in mechanical engineering. He began his career at Palmer & Associates which was owned by Dean Palmer for whom Palmer Hall in the College of Engineering was named after. After working there for 18 years, he went on to work at Defiance Testing & Engineering for another 10 years. He then worked as an engineer for Century Automotive MFG and Toyota before finding his current job as an Engineer with Chrysler where he has been for 9 years.

Originally from Seven Hills, Ohio, Jay now resides in Temperance, Michigan. He currently lives on a farm in Temperance which used to be owned by a family who would sell Christmas Trees. He continued this tradition, selling trees from this lot for 15-20 years. In addition to Christmas trees, he and his wife have a passion for crafts. Both of them host craft workshops annually for Smith Road Elementary School PTA. Through these workshops they have been able to raise \$7,000-\$10,000 annually for Smith Road Elementary over the past 14 years.

Carlson Leadership Academy

Nine undergraduates and three alumni attended the Carlson Leadership Academy in Pittsburgh, PA the weekend of January 24th-26th. Also in attendance was alumni, Dr. Ron Binder, due to his role as a district governor for the state of Pennsylvania. The Carlson Leadership Academy is a regional conference held by SigEp Headquarters. At CLA undergraduates can attend a variety of tracks to learn the best tips and practices for executive board positions. Throughout the weekend the undergraduates attended various sessions focused on improving themselves along with how to better the chapter. They shared thoughts and ideas with chapters from Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Kentucky. The alumni in attendance also had specific programming that looked to help us better understand the changes being made at a national level to the Balanced Man Program. After the weekend, our men had a better understanding of what is expected of them and many new ideas to bring back to Toledo.

Ohio Iota was also recognized with two awards at the Saturday awards dinner. These included the Talent Power Award and the AVC Operational Excellence Award.

This was a great weekend for Ohio, Iota. We were able to learn and share many best practices with other chapters, but we were also recognized by SigEp Headquarters for all the hard work both the undergraduates and volunteers do. Hopefully we will be receiving some more awards at Conclave in July!



Ohio Iota representatives at the Carlson Leadership Academy in Pittsburgh

National Awards Received by Ohio Iota

Talent Power Award for Excellence in Recruitment

AVC Operational Excellence Award



Sigma Phi Epsilon Scholarship Report

As a fraternity, we are lucky to have 6 Scholarship Funds organized through the University of Toledo Foundation. All of our funds were initiated by the efforts of dedicated brothers for various reasons over the years. As Alumni, these funds provide a way for us to give direct financial support to active brothers in their quest to learn, grow, and advance their lives through Sigma Phi Epsilon. For Undergraduates, these scholarships can help address the rising cost of education. These scholarships have a direct impact for many, giving leadership and brotherhood opportunities that may not otherwise be available. Since all of these funds are endowed, they will always be there to work for values of Sigma Phi Epsilon. Here is a summary of our Sig-Ep funds:

Sigma Phi Epsilon Ohio Iota Chapter / Balanced Man Scholarship (1300144):

Established 1984, this is a general scholarship fund awarding actives based on involvement, academics, service, and financial need. This scholarship is allocated to the Balanced Man new member program in the Fall semester.

Dick and Kay Bensman Scholarship for Sigma Phi Epsilon (1301894):

Established in 2011, this fund seeks to award Junior or Senior Sig-Eps with an above average grade point and a preference toward graduates from Toledo Pubic Schools.

Richard L. and Gail W. Springer Sigma Phi Epsilon Leadership Fund (1301386):

Established in 2005, this fund promotes leadership training opportunities for Sig-Eps providing funding for various camps and academies.

Sigma Phi Epsilon Margaret R. and John Mandula Jr. Challenge Fund (1301204):

Established in 2003, this fund seeks to award Sig-Ep "Balanced Men" excelling academically and in campus and chapter involvement. This fund has been well supported by many, including the four Mandula brothers that many of you know. It is awarded each year to two or three members.

Stegman Sigma Phi Epsilon Leadership Scholarship Fund (1302169):

Established in 2013 by Richard Stegman, this fund seeks to benefit Sig-Ep upper classmen based on Leadership and Need. The scholarship recipient must be at least a sophomore in academic standing and recognized by his peers in leadership activities during his undergraduate years. The \$1000 award must be used at the University of Toledo by the undergraduate.

Sigma Phi Epsilon President Club Scholarship – In Memory of Robert Gates (1302113):

Established in 2013 in memory of Robert Gates, this fund was seeded by Past Presidents of Sigma Phi Epsilon and Chi Beta Chi. In 1950, Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity was chosen as the successor to the local Chi Beta Chi Fraternity. Robert Gates, then President of Chi Beta Chi, was instrumental in choosing a National Fraternity, called Sig Ep. Its purpose is to fund Scholarships for the Ohio Iota President and his Officers and to defer the cost of living in the Chapter House.

Our Springer Fund continues to help many members attend Sig Ep Carlson Leadership Academy and Sig Ep Grand Chapter Conclave. This year awards will total \$16,500.

Below are the 2024-2025 individual Scholarship Recipients.

Balanced Man

Logan Hagemeyer
Leyton Marsh
Jameson Carey
Logan Abrams

Presidents Club

Carter Wheaton Rodriguez
Shawn Monteiro
Rudy Dua

Bensman

Roshan Sirole
Dylan Cox
Patrick Fox

Mandula

Gavin Pokersnik
Samuel Yonker
Logan Benjamin
Carson Chapel

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/>
- Be sure to designate your gift to one of our Sig Ep funds using the fund numbers above.
- Your gift is tax deductible.



Sigma Phi Epsilon

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

Sig Ep Turns 75 !

Toledo Sig Eps are continuing to Soar Past Seventy with our

2025 Homecoming and 75th Birthday Celebration!

Put Fall Homecoming 2025 on your calendar now and plan to join

Ohio Iota Brothers and Golden Hearts.

It's a great day to be a Sig Ep!