

The Ohio State Gamma Gazette



Spring 2008
Volume 3, Edition 6

Dear Brothers and Friends,

- This final issue of the 2007-2008 academic year is solely dedicated to our recently graduated brothers. Enjoy their stories and learn from their lessons.
- Congratulations and well done, brothers; we are all incredibly proud of you!

Joey Albright - '08 Alum



My Brothers,

I'm sitting down writing this on a Friday afternoon, listening to some music, and typing in a flow of consciousness. I don't want to structure this shit. Giving it structure would provide it with a pretense that what I have to say is important or wise. Take it for face value. That being said, this feels too much like a memoir written at age 22. I'll just go with it.

I'm a very nostalgic kid. I dream of living in 1989 for the music. I would kill to be a greaser and take Cherry Valence to a drive-in movie. And if James Dean isn't the coolest S.O.B to live, I don't know is (Brian Katz, maybe). So I generally decide on my current state of happiness through how nostalgic I am for the past. If I'm not wishing myself backward, then I must be having a pretty bitchin' time.

How am I feeling now? Dare I say BALANCED? I'm still working on the MAN part of that phrase. I have fond appreciation for the past four years and extreme optimism for the next four. Where does this fit into our dear SIGMA PHI EPSILON? Well, when I think back I don't think of the big things. Although I

had fun in Windsor, Chicago, and Nashville – I lived those to the fullest – others

(Rigney ...etc.) lived it up for themselves *and* those that couldn't make it. It's the small, unplanned, spontaneous things I will miss. I'll punch anyone that tells me that is cliché. I know. I have poignant memories of SigEp and our brothers that seem so insignificant, but mean the world to me.

- Eating Steubenville pizza with Nathan Weber and Katie Sofranko on the steps outside of The Original Steubenville Pizza.
- Talking to Ryan Dressler until three or four in the morning about philosophy on the third floor, while David Shumaker made us Nachos (thanks Shuey).
- Lunch and coffee with Kevin Marginian and Kit Seryak on Fridays.



- Crashing a car with Michael Repasky across several lanes of traffic (Thank God I wasn't wearing a seatbelt).
 - Being un-wantedly groped by a sorority girl while Kyle Donnelly and Ryan Dressler pretended to sleep (thanks for the help).
- Getting a call from Dane Yocco, asking if my mom can talk to his mom, so that we could have a sleep over.
- The unplanned events are infinite. I will always want more. I could pour blood, sweat, and tears into



this fraternity and there would still be more personal connections and unexpected memories to have. I think we all crave the times we don't expect to remember.

This is where the advice comes in. Its simple, and its easy. JUST BE THERE. Between classes, when your (I know it should be "you're," I just wanted to see if Dudis' head would explode) bored, for a meal, when you can't sleep. Go to the house. Be with your brothers. Those memories will be cherished. I have but one regret in my years with SigEp. I never lived in the house. It is the best way to spontaneously create the best times of your life.

Anyone could write for pages about their time with their fraternity. I could sum up all of it with this: Don't let others plan and schedule the best times of your life. JUST BE AROUND to live them for yourself.

Always and forever, in Virtue, Diligence, and Brotherly Love,
JOEY! (Albright)



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John Baxter - '08 Alum

As I sit at my computer to write my senior article for the *Gamma Gazette* I have a final I should be studying for, graduation announcements sitting on my desk that I should be mailing out (but only after I actually address them), and this pesky thing called my future that people say I should be planning. So why in the world am I sitting down at a computer writing, when I have a million other things to do? Simple, it's because I can.

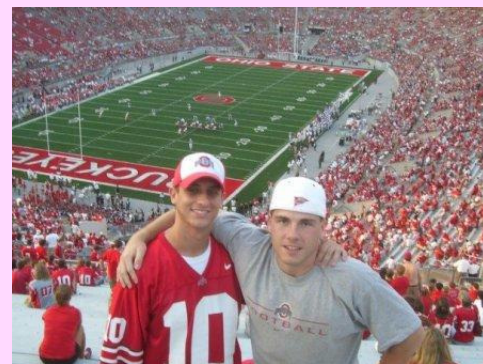


In less than two weeks I graduate from college and end this chapter of my life. In essence this is the last time I can actively involve myself as an undergraduate member of SigEp. Like all things, time has been marching on. The juniors have been asserting themselves like seniors, the sophomores are filling those vacant junior roles, and the freshmen have been finding their ways and niche in SigEp. The seniors have been marching to that glorious day when we

call ourselves graduates. But at the same time we have been taking one more step farther away from those glorious undergraduate days in the fraternity. Those days that include going out until 3:30 AM in the morning in a "spirited" (read: nearly drunk off our asses) mood, all the while laughing and carrying on, sitting in the formal room having those conversations that only people of high intellect - like SigEps have - could fathom (e.g. is it better to buy hot dogs or brats at a ball game?), talking about life with your brother, and sharing with

him your dreams and ambitions, while he does the same, doing *absolutely* nothing on a Friday afternoon except hanging out when you have a pile of work to do for Monday, and countless other activities (or lack thereof); that makes the college experience in SigEp the most memorable days of our lives. Once we are college graduates, gone are the days of senseless shenanigans such as jumping in a lake in November with your brothers (when only before you were getting in the right frame of mind) or skipping a class to do who knows what because no one remembers what you actually did but everyone remembers having a great time. Once we spread

ourselves across the state and country we will no longer have that certainty of sitting in the 'Shoe together in the fall, cheering on the Buckeyes to another victory. With technological advancements, people can stay in touch easier than they could, but I doubt that we will be able to relive those experiences being able to talk to your brother one on one on a personal level in the middle of the day or at an ungodly hour in the middle of the night when you have an exam the next day but you don't care be-



cause the conversation is ten times more enlightening than your professor's stale lecture he's giving for the three hundredth time. I could go on forever but you get the point. SigEp is indeed a lifetime of brotherhood that does not end once we switch the tassel from one side to the other. These are the men that will marry you and bury you. Those relationships and memories will never die or go away. However, anyone with half a mind will tell you that college is the best time of your life. Add on to that your experience and time in SigEp and I doubt you will be able to find a period of your life you remember as fondly (save for weddings, birth of children, birth of grandchildren, etc.).

I cannot speak for every senior, but I myself am ready to graduate and continue on with my life and find new challenges. But, I truly believe that the consensus among us is that even if we are all ready to move on, we wouldn't mind another week or two (without exams and homework of course). Unfortunately, father time is not granting us that wish. While we are taking our exams and preparing for graduation we are busy getting our ducks in a row. Are you getting the point now why I said that this is in essence my unofficial last act as an undergraduate SigEp? And, I wouldn't miss this for the world. If I could leave any sage wisdom, it's that you get out of SigEp what you put in and I have made lifetime friendships and wonderful memories. But, I would be remorse if I didn't take this last chance to be connected with you all one last time. I thank you all for allowing me this time ... PROUD!

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Ryan Dressler - '08 Alum

Gone Fishing...

There is only one time in my life when I actually enjoy being alone and relaxing; that's when I'm fishing. Fishing is often used as an analogy to many of life's endeavors. My favorite thing to fish for, besides small-mouth bass, is women.



Understand that it's called fishing, not catching

- A man gains experience the more he fishes and learns tricks to help improve his success in catching fish. Every detail from lure selection to casting location and weather prediction take many grey hairs to master.
- No man catches a fish on every cast. Some men are better fisherman than others yet still every cast does not produce a catch.



- Practice catch and release. After catching a fish (woman) practice releasing it back without harming it. It will then be able to spawn and increase the health of the lake.

Assessing your catch accurately

- Pan fish such as blue gill and crappie are fun to catch over and over again, and they are great to eat, but rarely are they worth mounting on the wall.
- Small-mouth between 1 and 3 pounds are tremendously fun to catch and usually are held onto for a little longer until the potential of a few more years of growth is recognized and then they are released.
- The elusive Lunker is only to be caught once in a life time (maybe more than once for some). It holds a weight of over 7 pounds and it shows extreme beauty and wisdom. The Lunker is allowed to be taken from the lake sometimes and mounted on the wall... Other times releasing the Lunker is a sign of respect for the fisherman and respect for the fisherman by the fish.

Proper Technique

- The lure must look appetizing on the surface. Present yourself well. Remember that the fish must be attracted to the bait long enough to make the decision to bite.
- Reeling in too fast will scare the fish



away... reeling in too slowly will cause the fish to lose interest. A perfect speed will attract the best fish, and then once the fish commits it is time to set the hook and lock in the catch.

- In the end remember that catching fish is a bonus, and that it takes years of practice to master. Even once mastered, you will still make mistakes and lose great catches.

Good luck men and remember to always keep a lure in the water or nothing will ever bite.



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John Drummond - '08 Alum



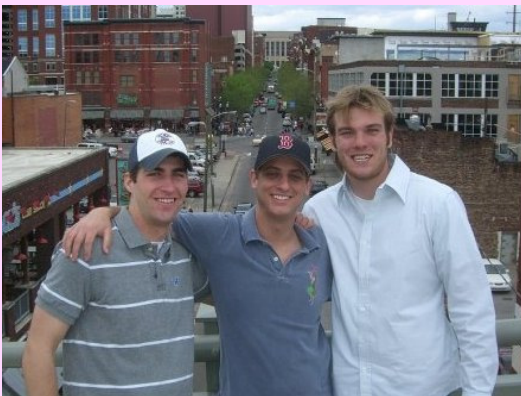
“Friends come in and out of our lives like busboys in a restaurant.” This quote comes from the movie “Stand By Me,” which is one of my favorite movies. For those of you who have not seen it and want to know what it’s about, go to imdb.com for a summary.

Throughout college, I have met hundreds of people through SigEp, other fraternities and sororities, classes, work, other friends and girlfriends, etc. As I look back on my four years of college, I notice that many of them did in fact come in and out of my life like a busboy in a restaurant. It may have been someone you met in class or a girl you met at a TG or Greek/Homecoming Week. The point is, most of the people you have met in college you will not stay in touch with after graduation. However, I truly feel that 50 years from now we will still have this strong brotherhood that we have now, and to go with the cheesy metaphor, you guys will still be bussing my table at the restaurant.

I want to thank the brothers who have graduated in the past 3 years and all of you for giving me the opportunity to surround myself with such a successful and diverse group of people. Many of you have been an integral part of some of the best memories of my life and will continue to be part of them in the future. Memories in the past like M.O.B. weeks in Windsor and Nashville and my 21st birthday (which was

on a Sunday night in February; thanks to all who were there and especially Gavin for driving me home from the KD house, which is all I really remember); memories now, like senior crawl and graduation; and memories down the road, like weddings, family vacations, and golfing everyday at a country club when we are 50 and drinking Johnnie Walker on the rocks.

In terms of being somewhat sentimental and metaphorical with the busboy reference, that’s the best I can do. Now, here is some advice that may be helpful in the future:



- If you are a student at Fisher, take the accounting series at Columbus State Community College. It costs less, the class is probably 100x easier than at Ohio State, and the credits transfer.
- When Ohio State goes to a national championship or Final Four, pay the money and go. I went to Tempe, Atlanta, and New Orleans and had some of the best times in college despite coming up empty handed in all three. The cost might seem expensive, but wait until you get your diploma and it costs you a donation of \$10,000 for the opportunity to buy season football tickets.

- Network, network, network -- seriously, knowing someone helped me land my job with the Clippers.
- Be spontaneous (Nathan Weber going to Greece).
- Don’t place so much emphasis on “stats” in the chapter (grades, manpower, sound body testing). Those are things that we do, but not who we are. Grades are obviously important, but I would hope that none of you joined because we have a high GPA. Instead of just focusing on improving our GPA, focus more on ways to improve the challenges, social events, intramurals, and the overall brotherhood, which are hopefully some of the reasons you did join SigEp. Remember, SigEp is still a fraternity, our fraternity. If you have a new idea for something, don’t keep it an idea in your head, make it happen.

The pictures I have attached are pretty self explanatory. The first one is when we won the intramural soccer championship in 2005, the second is in Tempe for the National Championship (notice I have no ticket), and the last is in Nashville this year (Shannon is there in spirit, his eyes were “crossin’ cats” at the time). To close, I will echo the words of my friend Matt Caccimelio (Toledo SigEp, 2007), “It’s been real; it’s been nice; it’s been real nice.”

In Virtue, Diligence, and Brotherly Love,
John



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Ryan Fournier - '08 Alum



I cannot believe my time at OSU is up! I still remember the day I first was introduced to SigEp. Who knew a lunch meeting at the old Ohio Union would turn into this four year relationship.

And even though it's the end of "college," being a part of our brotherhood is a relationship I want to keep for a long time. There has been a lot on my mind as I near June 8th, and one thought relates to my involvement with SigEp once I'm gone. It's

funny because you get involved with organizations on campus and when you're finished there isn't much keeping you there anymore. But, SigEp is different - as time has moved closer to graduation I have been realizing that my involvement here is not ending - it's still moving forward. Believe me, that is a thought which has only come to fruition since last year - and I'm glad it did - I am looking forward to it.

So with that, keep a look out for our new informal room coming this summer and let's be

proud of what we have accomplished over the small period we seniors have been here. Long story in a nut shell: I don't want to make this a goodbye, I want to make this a written commitment to this fraternity that I will always be there for our brotherhood. Enjoy your summer, kick some ass, and I'll see you at the Gala this fall.

VDBL,
Ryan



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Alex Harnocz - '08 Alum



At Hoop of Steel, several of the seniors that spoke before me emphasized making time for friendships and learning outside the classroom and expressed the “work hard, but not too hard” attitude that most of us have come to embrace as seniors. That’s easy for us to say—with job offers, grad school acceptance, or business plans in place, it is easy to dispense advice about how to spend one’s time in college.

On some subconscious level, the seniors give you this advice, because we received it on the authority of a very good source—and in the last weeks of college, we finally figured it out.

The secrets of the Ritual are not all passwords, knocks, and grips. Some of the simplest things that are said in those candlelit rooms will be reanimated for you at crucial times in your life. You may have opinions one way or another about people who go around quoting scripture—but I don’t think that anyone could argue

that those people have truly internalized their faith and see what they read and believe reflected in their own lives. In the same way, you will truly understand what Sigma Phi Epsilon is built on when you see the Ritual show up in your every day life.

As graduating seniors, the words which have been ringing true for me come from the very beginning of my SigEpsilon experience. Early on we are told “your days in Sigma Phi Epsilon should be the happiest of your life. Properly balanced with work there is no greater joy than the association with friends and the fellowship of your brothers.”

So if you take away one thing from all of our advice, do everything academically that you need to do to excel in your field—in other words, be Diligent. But once you have met all your requirements, there will be a time at the end of the day, at the end of the week, and in on the margins of the year that you should spend with your brothers and friends. Spend a few extra days in the house before leaving for Christmas, spend a few hours longer than you should staying up on Thursday night, take a road trip the weekend before a midterm—you’ll be glad you did.

– Harnocz



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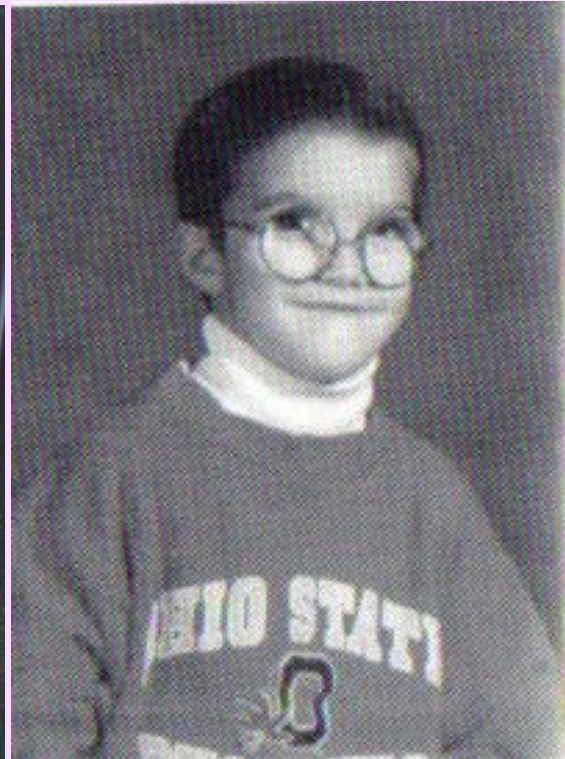


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Michael Repasky - '08 Alum

When I look back on my time in SigEp, I feel a great deal of appreciation for all those who are part of this fraternity and always will be. I have made lifelong friendships and learned a great deal. I am the person I am today, headed in the direction that I am (hopefully toward a long and successful life!) because of Sigma Phi Epsilon. I truly believe in my heart of hearts that what we are doing here at Ohio Gamma will pave the way for all fraternities and sororities to rekindle the deeper meaning of fraternalism. The steps that we are taking as a group will lead us to build a foundation of living rightly that cannot be shirked by any situation or circumstance. I am infinitely excited to know that I was in on the ground floor of true greatness. Continue to move forward in your pursuits of Sound Mind, Sound Body, and continue to strive to improve constantly; forever.



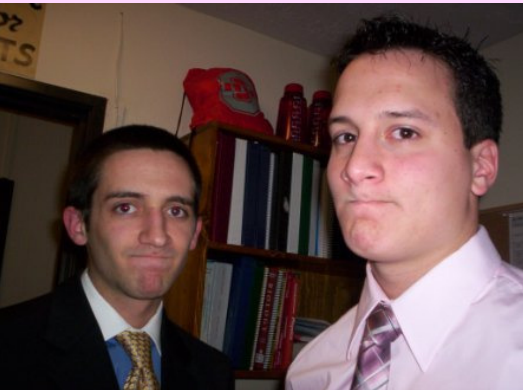
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Dane Yocco - '08 Alum

I'm sitting here, newborn alum of Ohio State and Ohio Gamma, wondering, "How do I feel?" I completed my last exam just yesterday. Even though I will be around campus for another two years doing grad school, it will be entirely different. No SigEp or Long House, no showing up to list parties unless I want to look utterly creepy (I'm looking at you, Brian Katz).



Yet it still hasn't sunk in. Over the past several hours, I've merely enjoyed catching up on the leisure reading that one never has time for during the academic quarters. I've gone out bowling with the brothers I would after any other finals week, some of which will be across the country in a matter of days. How is it that, even now, with *true* adult life staring me square in the face, I still cannot muster that sense of urgency, that feeling that all of this is ephemeral?

I'm realizing, however, that I knew this all along. That the willingness to stay up until 3

a.m. talking about the serious with brothers on the third floor of SigEp, even on a weeknight, is a testament to the fact that we all knew we had a short time together. That the ridiculously stupid evidence that we knew there are no other circumstances under which it is acceptable for Spech and I to take more laxatives than the prescribed amount just for the hell of it (true story: I was working at a law firm at the time, almost crapped my suit while at work).

Some may ask, "Why would that be important enough to make it into this newsletter, much less do at all?" Fair question. The truth of the matter is that we as brothers do things together that loving, married couples are often not willing to do. And I don't just mean in the ridiculously raunchy, sometimes idiotic, and quite illogical sense that much of what many of us do can be. I also mean all of the selfless acts that brothers do for each other on a day-to-day basis: driving each other to class when it's raining; rushing each other to the hospital when appendixes burst, bones are broken, and concussions are had; taking guys to the airport at the earliest hour of the day. I guess some of these things are what dedicated partners and spouses do for each other. But, think about it, where else in life do you have such close friends that you can be complete jackasses with, but still pour out so much emotion, admiration, and mutual respect to the point that you feel utterly compelled to keep up communication, long beyond we leave Ohio State?



I'm facing the end of this page, so I have to wrap it up as per Dudis's instructions. I guess I'll leave you all with this: I didn't know what I was going to write about, much in the way that I had no idea what I was doing when I joined SigEp. But, in short, if it wasn't for SigEp, I would not have found the career path I ultimately decided to pursue, I would not have met my future wife, and I would not have found the men who will be my closest and most respected friends from here on out. They will be the ones who are there on my wedding day, and they will be the ones laying me to rest if I'm first to go. As men from Ohio Gamma told me when they were graduating, these are the men that will marry you and bury you. Be grateful for what you have and who constitutes Ohio Gamma. These have been the best and most rewarding years of my life.



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B. J. Yurkovich - '08 Alum

After trying to think of something funny, meaningful, or thoughtful to say in my little blurb to you, I realized that I have nothing at all to say. I tried writing some "motivational" things, but they ended up sounding like the monotonous things that you hear at orientation and in President Gee's speeches ("get involved," "diversity is good," and so on...). While writing these things, I realized that I have done none of those things, and I would be a hypocrite to spout off all those messages and sentiments. On the other hand, if I tell you to not walk the path that

I did, I would be preaching to the choir, because if you are anything like me, I would not take anything written here to heart. So, I find myself stuck between a rock and a hard place because of the choices I made not to get close to any of you, and to work so much that I barely know myself. Perhaps that is the biggest problem of all: I do not know myself. It is possible that if I had taken the time to really get to know myself, I would, in the process, have gotten to know more of you. Maybe that is the message that I want to get



is partying too much, studying too much, working too much, and we forget who we are and what is good for us. Even in the ever mindful pursuit of a balanced lifestyle (which is

across: know yourself. Realize when you are sick, when you need to sleep, realize that everyone is just as busy, if not more busy, than yourself, and realize who you can trust. In our busy lives, we find ourselves over-involved in activities, whether it

preached to us in our own fraternity), it is so easy to stray and find ourselves lost. This is sermonized over and over, and many of you do a great job of maintaining a balanced lifestyle. For those of you, however, who are a little less pious, and a little less motivated (like myself) to maintain a balanced lifestyle, learn something from the guy who got so off track of what "balanced" is that some days it is a wonder if he will ever get back on track. So, as I am writing the conclusion to the chapter in my life that I feel like I have not read (or written), I ask you to not make the same mistakes that I did. Come up for a breath of fresh air occasionally, and get to know yourself.

