



THE OHIO GAMMA

FALL 2019

RED DOOR

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER OF SIGMA PHI EPSILON
AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

HONOR THE PAST - CELEBRATE THE PRESENT - CREATE THE FUTURE

CONCLAVE = MOTIVATION

Brothers, I attended our 56th Conclave in Houston, Texas, with Logan Kohl, our Chapter President and Chris Hernandez, a new member this last spring and our BMS Coordinator.

It was, as always, very motivational and informative. It's also fun to "rub elbows" with Distinguished Military Leaders, Captains of Industry, a major University President, and even a Hollywood Mogul. All brothers and all offering to help as needed at Ohio Gamma.

We feel good about rebuilding the chapter this fall. After graduation, we have 26 returning members with a plan to add 30 members next year. So with 56 members by Spring 2020 and most members living in the chapter house, the men have set a goal to have the charter returned to them

by the end of spring semester and to win a Buch Cup at the Denver Conclave, July 2021.

We are learning that smaller chapter size is a better formula with men who are aligned properly with our Sig Ep Balanced Man values. So somewhere around 70 members is our goal with members achieving sound mind and body goals.

It is a pleasure to report we continue our GPA dominance amongst other fraternities at OSU with a 3.59 average GPA this past spring. So we have led all fraternities in GPA for about the last 10 years.

John Waggoner '70
AVC President

SAFE ENVIRONMENT

Sig Ep is leading the way to eliminate hazing and manage alcohol use in our chapters. Our undergrad members voted in 2017 to mandate all chapter houses to be substance free by fall 2020. Nationally, we also encourage all chapters to use 3rd party vendors to distribute alcohol at parties.

When Ohio Gamma resumed operations Spring 2019, we did so as a sub-stance free chapter house and a requirement that all parties would be held only with a Third party vendor. We have a group of men now who are very committed to this type of social programming and we will continue to add only members with the same values.

This will make our recruitment unique to Ohio Gamma as most other fraternities do not follow these principals. But there are many students on campus looking for this type of fraternity built on leadership development and brotherly love. This might be why we continue to lead in GPA!

2019 HOMECOMING



HALL OF FAME

GEORGE E. SMITH
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

BOB BARNETT
OUTSTANDING ALUMNI SERVICE



Our honoree and featured speaker for the George E. Smith Distinguished Alumni award is

Dr. James V. Griesen

Jim is an Ohio native who received his B.Sc., MBA, and Ph.D in Educational Research at The Ohio State University. He moved to Nebraska in 1977 to accept the position of Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. In October 1984, he transitioned to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and served as Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs for 20 years. After his administrative retirement in 2006, he taught full time in the UNL Department of Educational Administration for 8 additional years, and is now Professor and Vice Chancellor Emeritus. Dr. Griesen will provide some comments on the future of the Greek System.



Cathy Kirkendall

Our Honorees for the Robert B. Barnett Outstanding Alumni Service Award are the first ever Mother and Son combination.

Paul Kirkendall is currently our AVC Treasurer and has brought so much to our financial system since he took on that position. Mom

Cathy Kirkendall started catering banquet events for the men when Paul joined the fraternity and has continued those events each year since Paul graduated. It really helps when "Mamma K" provides the meal for recruitment events as she is a great cook.



Paul & Katelynd Kirkendall

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

This year we will also honor the classes of 2006, 2007 and 2008. In 2006 we were honored to be named Student Organization of the Year by OSU. This is the highest honor we can receive from the University and is really a special award as it means that we were tops amongst all organizations at OSU, not just the Greek system. The men of classes 2006 thru 2008 where the first to achieve this award.

Friday, October 4, 2019 Beginning at 5:30 p.m. The Ohio Union at OSU Cartoon Room, 3rd Floor, 1739 High St., Columbus

Food and beverages will include a buffet dinner and a cash bar. The cost is \$50 per person and reservations and payments can be made online from the options below.

You have several registration options:

- 1] Register online and pay by credit card using PayPal at:
ohiogamma.org/2019-homecoming-rsvp-form-paypal
- 2] Register online and pay by check* at:
ohiogamma.org/2019-homecoming-rsvp-form
- 3] Manually register by sending your name, address, and phone # to Sean Mittelman*.
- 4] *Please note:* For 2019 Grads, there is no charge for dinner, just email Sean Mittelman at mittelman13@gmail.com and provide your name, address and cell phone number if you are attending.

*If paying by check, please make your check payable to Sean Mittelman, 376 Greencamp Dr. Columbus, OH 43235

We are expecting a larger turnout this year and space is limited to 150 people so please get your reservations in early.

Please come and help us celebrate!

Saturday, October 5, 2019

All are welcome to to enjoy

LOUNGE GATE

Beginning at 4:30 pm

Loungegate is also held at the Ohio Union in both the Sigma Phi Epsilon Lounge and the Interfaith Room down the hall from our Lounge. There is no charge for the Saturday events which are compliments of the AVC and a thank you for your loyal alumni support. This year we will switch to a cash bar for all alcoholic beverages.

Should you need hotel reservations, **we have a small block of rooms reserved at the Embassy Suites - Airport, 2886 Airport Drive at \$139 per night. Reservations can be made by calling the Embassy Suites at 1-800-EMBASSY (362-2779) and requesting group code SPE (Sigma Phi Epsilon) block for October 4, 2019. The cutoff date for block reservations at the Embassy is September 14, 2019.** The Embassy Suites is near the airport and has shuttle service to and from the airport. Should you need to stay more than one night, the hotel can accommodate your request.

Please make your reservations early since this is Homecoming Weekend and the hotels will fill quickly.

A number of football tickets may be available on a first come first serve basis. Ohio State versus Michigan State and tickets are \$157 per ticket. Please contact John Waggoner by email at waggonj55@aol.com or call 614-406-1690 to reserve your tickets.

Would you please complete the registration process online or via the mail indicating in which activities you will participate by September 21, 2019.

We will forward around October 1, for those planning to attend, a finalized agenda and any last-minute details and directions for the event.

If you have any questions, please contact us at the numbers below.

Fraternally,

John Waggoner '70
AVC President
(614) 406-1690

Sean Mittelman '09
AVC Development
(614) 595-0722

Jim Crossley
AVC Alumni Relations
(614) 804-1963

IN MEMORIAM

Two of our distinguished alumni passed away recently.



JEFF ODENWALD '69



MIKE LOCKWOOD '66

We will have a special memorial for both brothers
at our Hall of Fame Event

Love, MOM & DAD

While at Conclave we had the opportunity to hear from Max Gruver's Mom and Tim Piazza's parents. You probably recall Tim died as a result of alcohol hazing at Penn State and Max died the same way at LSU.

Their parents are traveling the country to tell their story and to effect change in fraternity culture. They spoke at OSU last year as well.

It is a tough story to hear but it needs to be told. Two needless deaths where they sent their kids away to college, joined a fraternity and both the fraternities and the universities failed them.

Their tragic stories highlight why Sig Ep and Ohio Gamma are taking leadership to change the culture of alcohol and hazing.

During the Q and A, an undergrad asked the parents why they are speaking on change in culture rather than just eliminating fraternities from campuses. They responded they felt fraternities provide useful development for young men, if hazing and alcohol can be eliminated. They did not wish to eliminate fraternities.

Their story is one all fraternity members need to hear. Unfortunately not enough are listening. That's why I'm so glad Sig Ep is taking the lead on this and working with other fraternities in an attempt to move them in the same direction and keep all our Sig Ep chapters following our values.