



THE OHIO GAMMA

SPRING 2022

RED DOOR

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER OF SIGMA PHI EPSILON
AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

HONOR THE PAST - CELEBRATE THE PRESENT- CREATE THE FUTURE

WE ARE BACK!

Dating back to November of 2018, a member review due to a secret slush fund decimated our chapter and we were left with only 20 members from 163! As a result, an Alumni Advisory Council (AAC) was set up to manage the chapter and retain the charter. Once the AAC felt the undergrad chapter was ready to regain the charter, the AAC would make a request to our Grand President.

I'm pleased to say that request has been sent to our National Headquarters and we have complete confidence the charter will be returned to our men. The committee is expected to meet in late April.

Our goals for the chapter have all been met:

- 60 total members
- 43 new recruits in the last 2 years
- Strong member development activities and programming
- Effective undergrad leadership
- At least 20 men living in the house so the chapter is self-sustaining financially (we have 22 leases signed for fall 2022)

Currently our chapter President, Casey Petrae, is serving his second term as President and 5 of 8 additional members of the Exec committee are in their second term. So we have a very experienced group that has shown they know how to accomplish their goals.

HELP FROM LONG TIME FRIENDS

We are pleased to announce that Don Stenta, PhD, will return this spring semester to his role as Chapter Advisor. Anyone in or around our chapter since 1998 will remember Don and his strong contribution to our growth and development as a Balanced Man chapter. Don's PhD is in Educational Policy and Leadership and will be able to further develop the chapter on our BM principles.

We are also pleased to again have Tracy Stuck involved with our chapter. Tracy is now the Assistant VP of the Office of Student Life. Back in 1999 she was deeply involved in helping us bring the Balanced Man program to our chapter and Sig Ep has always been very special to her.

We would also like to thank Rob Jech for his service as our past Chapter Advisor. Rob was very effective providing leadership guidance to our chapter presidents over the past 4 years and we appreciate all of Rob's efforts for Ohio Gamma.



Casey Petrae, in addition to serving 2 terms as chapter President, has also been a Vice President of the Ohio Union Activities Board (OUAB) and led all Homecoming activities at OSU last year. This year he is the President of the OUAB. For his efforts, he was awarded Sig Ep's very prestigious Frank Ruck Leadership Award and two weeks later was named to the group who will attend Sig Ep's Trago Quest to Greece. The Tragos quest is a very elite group of undergrads, selected from all our Sig Ep chapters, to travel to Greece, learn more of our Greek principles and further develop leadership skills.



FINANCIALS

Financially we are in great shape. Since 2018, virtually all of the cash reserve has been provided by our alumni as the house has been below our breakeven capacity. For fall 2022, we will have 22 men living in the house and 20 are needed to be self-sufficient. So the undergrad rent and parlor fees will now cover basic expenses and some excess toward upgrading the house.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Our scholarship program has come a long way since our 2009 inception when we gave out 4 scholarships totaling \$2000. In 2021, we provided scholarships totaling \$72,250 to 29 undergrads.

This year we added a few specific scholarships:

CHAPTER AWARDS

Our undergrads have always selected a member to be honored with the Chapter awards listed below. Last year they asked our AVC if we could provide a scholarship for the honorees and we thought that was an excellent idea. As it happened, we had received endowment funds for alumni brothers who have passed away in the last few years, so we were also able to add their names to the awards.

AWARDEE	AWARD	SCHOLARSHIP
Sean Menkel	Mike Lockwood Faithful Friend Award	\$500
Christopher Hernandez	Jim Allhouse Campus Impact Award	\$500
Robert Milner	Bob Barnett Balanced Man of the Year Award	\$500

GPA SCHOLARSHIP

Once again we also awarded gpa scholarships for men living in the house and those who have signed a lease for next year.

AWARDEE	GPA SCHOLARSHIP		DONOR
Alberto Casa	\$750	3.876	Bill Conkle
Apostol Kule	\$750	3.787	Jim Pfeifer
Brady Leemaster	\$750	3.812	Devin Woodyard
Casey Petrae	\$250	3.30	Tom Applegate
Christopher Hernandez	\$500	3.935	Chris Case Mitch Dom
Connor Hundley	\$500	3.906	Steve Engelhaupt Ryan Fleming
Ethan Kohler	\$250	3.390	Tom McLaughlin
Jonathan Lemieux	\$500	3.588	Don Kender
Kahler Kurtz	\$500	3.737	Glenn Kubina Jeff Smith
Kyle Germann	\$750	3.783	Dave Hyre Mark Reilly
Liam Fernandes	\$500	3.760	Chris Maskevich Bryan McIntyre
Namith Anil	\$1,000	4.00	In Memory of Dick Walters
Jeffrey Sharko	\$1,000	4.00	In Memory of Robin Schmidt
Sean Menkel	\$250	3.30	Brad Brinzo

ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS

FOR THE OUTSTANDING UNDERGRADS
IN SPECIFIC MAJORS

In 2021 we received a large endowment from brother Brent Bishop '71 to establish 2 \$1000 annual scholarships to our most Outstanding Business Majors. That gave us the idea to establish the same awards in other majors as we had endowment money from other brothers and had not dedicated those funds to any specific scholarship in prior years. There is an article elsewhere in this letter about Brent's donation.

Brent Bishop Outstanding Business Major		
Christopher Hernandez	\$1,000	3.935
Brady Leemaster	\$1,000	3.812
George Smith Outstanding Engineering Major		
Robert Milner	\$1,000	4.00
Connor Hundley	\$1,000	3.906
Ray Lok Outstanding Arts or Science Major		
Jeffrey Sharko	\$1,000	4.00
Apostol Kule	\$1,000	3.87
Colonel James Allhouse Military Science Award		
Brock Merritt	\$500	

HOUSING SCHOLARSHIPS

Housing scholarships are designed to make the chapter house affordable for all the men who wish to live there:

AWARDEE	SCHOLARSHIP	DONOR (S)
Apostol Kule	\$3,500	Jim Pfeifer
Brady Leemaster	\$3,500	Devin Woodyard
Casey Petrae	\$3,500	Ken Butler, John Conkle
Christopher Hernandez	\$3,500	Jim Burkhard, Dick Bangs, Chris Burk, Jim Crossley
Connor Hundley	\$3,500	William McNutt, Scott Sevick, Peter Jaegersen, Ken Butler
Ethan Kohler	\$3,500	Ken Misener, Larry Bond, Dave Hering, Geoffrey Kemp, Gordon Krescheck
Jonathan Lemieux	\$3,500	Nate Stahl, Bryan Takayama, James Weider, Ken Butler
Kahler Kurtz	\$3,500	Devin Woodyard
Kyle Germann	\$3,500	Jeff Dubois, James Hendrickson, Dan Prucha, Austin Stewart, Dave Cessna
Jeffrey Sharko	\$3,500	Timmy Monahan, Mike Roberts, Terry Schieber, Jim Pfeifer, C.J. Waggoner
Sean Menkel	\$3,500	Michael Reed, Joe Lennon, Jim Pfeifer
Pavan Thota	\$3,500	Bill Spitler, Brent Bishop
Brendan Hensley	\$3,500	Hunter Bloecher, George Smith
Tristen Alkire	\$3,500	Brent Bishop, Jerry Williams
Branson Jessel	\$2,000	Ken Butler

ALUMNI DONATIONS

The funds raised over the last 2 years have been amazing...\$338,000 from 144 alumni!! While we have about 1200 alumni, professional fundraisers tell us that in the Greek world, 12% alumni participation is a high percentage as most fraternities are below 10%.

We would like to specifically thank brother G. Brent Bishop '71 for his \$75,000 donation in 2021. \$50,000 of this donation will be endowed to provide 2-\$1000 scholarships each year to our top 2 undergrads in the School of Business. Brent enjoyed a long successful career in business and wants to give back to our undergrads majoring in business. Given the size of his donation, we will dedicate the front room at the house as The G. Brent Bishop Informal Room. In addition to this donation, Brent also donated a new pool table for the Informal Room and the undergrads are quite excited about this gift!

Brent's endowment gave us the idea that we should set up scholarships for other majors and you will see in the list of endowed scholarships we have also added The George Smith Scholarships for Engineering, The Ray Lok Scholarships for Science, and the Colonel James Allshouse Scholarship for Military Science. For 2022, we will add the Mike Lockwood Scholarship for Engineering. A special thanks to all the brothers who contributed specifically to that endowment for Mike.

It was a pleasure also to be able to honor the request of the undergrads to endow the Mike Lockwood Faithful Friend Award, The Bob Barnett Balanced Man of the Year Award, and The Jim Allshouse Campus Impact Award. These honors have long been established and voted by the undergrads but until recently there were no scholarships associated with the awards. Each scholarship is \$500.

FUTURE DONATIONS

While past donations have been tremendous, we need to continue to donate annually to fund GPA, Housing and Balanced Man scholarships. Getting in the habit of including Ohio Gamma/Ohio State in your annual list of donations is most helpful.

As you know, we are fortunate to have been able to set up Ohio Gamma as a fund within The Ohio State University Foundation. So a gift can be made to the University and indicate our Ohio Gamma fund #316021. Or just go to our website: ohiogamma.org/donate

We still have a program to provide a scholarship in your name for a donation of \$250 or more.

CAMPUS ENGAGEMENT AND PHILANTHROPY NEWS FROM OUR UNDERGRADS

In 2021 the chapter elected Brady Leemaster as its first Vice President of Campus Engagement in over three years. This was an exciting and important sign of chapter growth because it served to reaffirm our focus on philanthropy and service. During the semester the chapter was able to participate in a variety of service events. One of these events was a large-scale food packing event at the French Fieldhouse. With a special invitation from the Office of Student Life, brothers had the chance to help pack over 100,000 meals alongside a variety of other student organizations. Another important milestone in philanthropy was the revival of the Very Sharey Food Drive. Together the brothers rallied around a theme of Thanksgiving and community involvement to collect over 1,800 pounds of food to donate to the Mid-Ohio Food Bank!

In 2022, Alberto Casas became our VP Campus Engagement. He is a third-year studying information systems. Once again our capstone volunteering initiative was our yearly Very Sharey event, a two-week effort of collecting spare food from local Columbus neighborhoods and donating it to the Mid-Ohio Foodbank. After two weeks, we were able to collect over 5,000 food items which went directly to families in need.

This semester, we have both continued giving back and strengthening our presence on campus. We recruited a long-term faculty tutor, Dr. Amit Vutha, who visits our chapter house and provides weekly tutoring in mathematics to brothers. We also held a blanket making event with Alpha Gamma Delta in which we assembled 25 hand-made blankets and donated them to My Very Own Blanket, a nonprofit charity dedicated to providing blankets to children in foster care. Most recently, over 20 brothers volunteered to help an art institute organize large art pieces for a local community auction of culturally-significant BLM art.

Although we are proud of what we have achieved this semester so far, we still have much more planned. After spring break, we will be helping OSU distribute free plants to students and faculty to promote self-care and mental health awareness. Lastly, we will pair again with Alpha Gamma Delta and run a cookie and lemonade sale. 50% of the proceedings will go to our national cause, Big Brothers Big Sisters of America.

For more giving opportunities, please visit: ohiogamma.org/donate



THE OHIO GAMMA ALUMNI & VOUNTEER CORPORATION
OF SIGMA PHI EPSILON FRATERNITY

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IN MEMORIAM



The following brothers have passed away since our last newsletter:

Distinguished Alumni

Dr. Edward "Bob" Hill '41, Honored in 2010 as the George Smith Distinguished Alumni

Ohio Gamma Foundation President Bob Barnett with George E. Smith Distinguished Alumni Award winner

Dr. Edward "Bob" Hill, Grand Chapter President Garry Kief, and Alumni Volunteer Corporation President John Waggoner



Robin A. Schmidt '56, Honored in 2015 with the Bob Barnett Outstanding Alumni Service Award

Bob Barnett with award winner, Robin A. Schmidt



Recent Obituary

William "Dean" Hawver '54 passed away on December 11, 2021. Dean received a Master's degree from Kent State and retired as Head of the Science Department at The Park Tudor School in Indianapolis, Indiana. He also led the golf team during his career. He is survived by his wife, Susan, and 3 children.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Our golf event will be
Saturday, August 20
Bent Tree Golf Club in Delaware, Ohio

Once again brother Jim Crossley will coordinate that event for us and will provide exact times later this year.

Mark your calendars for Homecoming weekend September 30 thru October 1. Assuming no new strain of Covid, we do plan to have a "tailgate" on October 1 at the chapter house and the house will also be open on Friday September 30 for alumni to gather, see the house and meet some of our undergrads. We will try to get a block of tickets for those interested in the game against Rutgers but that program has changed somewhat so it's not yet clear if we can reserve "blocks" of tickets.

For news on upcoming chapter events, chapter, alumni & undergraduates updates, and support opportunities, visit

<https://www.ohiogamma.org>