



# SIGMA PHI EPSILON



Fall 2013

OHIO GAMMA NEWSLETTER

## CHAPTER EVENTS

SPRING 2014

### BALANCED MAN CELEBRATION

JANUARY 5TH - 1 PM

### CHAPTER SKI RETREAT - MAD RIVER

JANUARY 18TH

### 2014 CHAPTER OFFICER ELECTIONS

JANUARY 20TH & 27TH

### WINTER FORMAL DANCE

FEBRUARY 1ST

### CARLSON LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

FEB. 21ST - 23RD

### EPSILON RIGHT OF PASSAGE

FEBRUARY 28TH

### DR. SEUSS WEEK OF SERVICE

MARCH 3RD - 7TH

### MEN OF BROTHERHOOD WEEK

MARCH 17TH - 23RD

### OSU GREEK WEEK

MARCH 30TH - APRIL 6TH

### SENIOR APPRECIATION WEEK

APRIL 7TH - 12TH

### EPSILON RIGHT OF PASSAGE

APRIL 18TH

## SigEp Feeds Columbus



Once again, Sigma Phi Epsilon has executed the yearly October Philanthropy event: A Very Sharey Halloween. Brothers and volunteers dedicated their Sunday to collecting canned goods to benefit the Mid-Ohio food bank. The Mid-Ohio Food Bank is a private, nonprofit organization that works to end hunger and co-create a sustainable community. Since 1980 they have been distributing food to more than 550 food pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters across central and eastern Ohio. While a large proportion of participants were SigEp Brothers, other volunteers included the men's swim team, the women's synchronized swim team, and the women's gymnastics team. Other various Greek organizations were also in attendance. The can collecting team totaled at around 170 participants. Preparation for can collection day started a week in advance when brothers went to neighboring suburbs to spread flyers for advertising for the event. The morning of the collection, all volunteers met near the Wexner

Center on Ohio State's campus. For the first time since the event started in 2003, a DJ was present to kick start the day as volunteers arrived and registered. Once everyone had arrived, people were split up into groups of 3-5. Each group was assigned a zone and a specific street to collect cans on. Volunteers could be found throughout Upper Arlington, Harrison West, Victorian Village, and German Village. With such a large number of volunteers, the four COTA buses available had to take two separate trips to drive participants to their designated streets. During collection, some brothers were designated as U-Haul Drivers. They would drive around the collection zones and ease the load of volunteers by filling up the back with the cans they had collected. After an hour or so of collecting, all groups were picked up at their assigned locations, and then dropped off at the South Gateway Center. After

everyone had returned to campus, the volunteers were then given coupons to restaurants in the area, so they could enjoy a nice lunch. After a hard day's work everyone's efforts seemed to pay off. Sigma Phi Epsilon's Very Sharey Halloween produced nearly 3,150 pounds of canned goods for the Mid-Ohio food bank, something not many organizations can



proudly say they've accomplished. It was another successful year for our philanthropy event, and we all look forward to another great year next fall. ♦



2012-2013 Exec brings home the Gold Buch Cup for O-H-I-O ♦



OH Gamma family represents well at the 53rd Conclave - 2013 in Dallas TX ♦



SigEp OH Gamma awarded 1 of 9 Gold Buch Cups on stage ♦

## 6<sup>TH</sup> CONSECUTIVE EDWIN T. BUCHANAN OUTSTANDING CHAPTER AWARD

### New at Sloopy's Diner: The SigEp American Classic



Brothers pose with the SigEp American Classic, a breakfast dish named after SigEp at the campus diner Sloopy's ♦



## The Book

BY DAVID CORRIGAN '15

Every Monday night, the brothers of Sigma Phi Epsilon assemble at the house to discuss chapter programming, recruitment, and other important upcoming events, deadlines, and fundraising opportunities. But amidst the every day bustle of chapter business, a tradition was formed. Each week, a brother reflects on the impact another brother has had on his experience within Sig Ep, Ohio State, and life.

Too frequently, our hectic schedules and rigorous course loads hinder us from these integral periods of reflection.

Yet part of becoming a balanced man mandates this introspection. And each week, a different brother receives the opportunity to not only step back and ponder how membership within Sig Ep has molded him, but also how he has given back to the chapter, for his impact on someone else's life goes recognized.

This tradition helps define becoming a balanced man, for it allows brothers to acknowledge their contributions to the chapter, and also to appreciate another brother's mentorship and brotherly love. As we grow through the fraternity, the fraternity flourishes through us, and our actions. ♦

# Brother's Passion Leads to Cancer Detection

BY GRAHAM WOOD '15

Vice President of Member Development Brett Geiger loves to ask candidates interviewing to progress into the Epsilon Challenge of SigEp: "What is something, no matter how small or specific, that you feel you are the best at within this university?" There is no doubt in Brett's mind, or in the mind of anyone that knows him, that he has found what he is best at. As an undergraduate, Brett has established himself as a rising star in the field of biomedical engineering with an impressive repertoire of research projects and awards.

Brett is a senior and Brother Mentor hailing from Cincinnati. He graduated in 2010 from St. Xavier high school, and came to school expecting to major in chemical engineering. He quickly found after getting involved in research that biomedical engineering was the field for him. Brett wanted to get involved in a medical field, but still loved the engineering and tinkering side of science. Biomedical engineering requires its students to be jacks of all trades, so Brett's strengths in chemistry, biology, mathematics, physics, and problem-solving have been instrumental in his success. Most of all, he wants to make an impact on the world that benefits others. He saw the potential for exploration and in-

novation in biomedical engineering to make medical advances of the future a reality.

As Brett built experience and skills in research, doors seemed to open themselves to him. He was accepted for a funded opportunity to travel to Germany for the summer and work in a research lab through the DAAD Research Internships in Science and Engineering (RISE) program after his sophomore year. The experience he gained through conducting his own personal project full-time for this program convinced him that research in biomedical engineering might not be just a source of involvement in college, but a fulfilling career path.

Upon returning to Ohio State as a junior, a friend in biomedical engineering, Kinshuk Mitra, approached Brett with the intent of developing and commercializing an idea into a startup company. They recruited Jeff Kessler, a business student, to help out with the financial and managerial aspects of the project and began refining an idea that would prove to be transformative. The project? "We wanted to make it possible to test for ovarian cancer in a way that could become as widespread and useful as the mammogram is for breast cancer," Brett explained. For the more technically inclined, the project encompasses the creation of a

cellular sieve using microfluidics, making it possible to isolate "circulating tumor cells" from blood samples. These cells are extremely indicative of certain types of cancer, but unfortunately are quite rare in the blood even for late-stage cancer patients, numbering as few as 50 of the billions of cells present in a typical blood sample. But the cellular sieve, called OncoFilter, plans to make these cells accessible to physicians for screening and diagnostic purposes.

As their project progressed, Brett and his team became increasingly more aware of the potential impact of their innovation. They recruited an advisor, Michael Tweedle, the Chair of Cancer Imaging at the Wexner Medical Center and a Professor of Radiology. They began to apply for funding and received \$5,000 from the National Collegiate Inventors and Innovator's Alliance (NCIIA) to develop and begin commercialization of the OncoFilter device. The team applied for the OSU Fisher College Business Plan Competition in March of 2013. With the help of some MBA students studying OncoFilter as part of a class, the team won the competition and took home \$80,000 worth of cash and consulting services as the first prize. See "OncoFilter" Page 4

## President Achieves Nationally with Order of Omega

Sigma Phi Epsilon current President Matthew E. Littman has been appointed as the student board member of the Greek honorary the Order of Omega. Littman is a biology major and the past president of the Zeta Chi chapter of Order of Omega. The Order of Omega society focuses primarily on recognizing Greek leaders, uniting students, faculty, and alumni, and fostering open discussion of ideas and issues. Admission as a general member of the honorary is based on the applicant's character, scholarship, leadership, and service. Since its founding in 1959 at the University of Miami, the Order of Omega has grown to 300 chapters across the country. This honor is bestowed to one student among the 300 chapters of Order of Omega. Mat-

thew, as a member of the executive board, will work closely with the National organization to share the student experience and assure the organization moves in a direction closely tied to its mission and values. The Order of Omega seeks maturity and good judgment from the student board member as they will serve as

the advocate and representative of the student members of the society. The Zeta Chi chapter of Order of Omega at The Ohio State University's adviser, Antonio-Phillip Lytle, states "Matt is a wonderful representation of what it means to be a Buckeye, his drive, passion and dedication to not only the Order of Omega, but to the Sorority and Fraternity Life community as a whole is infectious and pushes our entire community towards greatness." Matt will start his work with the board during the summer of 2013 and will represent The Ohio State University for the next academic year. ♦



Chapter President, Matt Littman poses in front of the Order of Omega Headquarters - Arlington, TX ♦

# OncoFilter

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On April 1, 2013, Brett and his team filed a provisional patent, essentially a stake claiming rights to an idea for a year, and now have plans to file for a full utility patent in the coming months before their provisional patent expires. This past summer, Brett lived in Columbus with fellow SigEps and worked on the OncoFilter project as well as his undergraduate honors thesis with Professor John Lannutti in the Materials Science Engineering department. The team was awarded another \$20,000 grant from the NCIIA this summer, which enabled the team to travel to Boston for a 3-day conference on entrepreneurship and will provide some of the necessary funding for the patent process.

Brett has received many accolades in the past year, in addition to recognition for his start-up. He, and two other brothers of SigEp, Brian Hurwitz and

Brian Mog, were three of the four students receiving nominations from Ohio State for the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship – the most prestigious award given to undergraduates in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields. All three brothers were recognized as Honorable Mentions for the scholarship. He was also given a Student Recognition Award from the Ohio State Board of Trustees for his leadership and service to the university. He was given the opportunity to speak in front of the Board when accepting his award, a unique opportunity he says he will never forget.

In the eyes of his brothers, Brett is an example of an extremely involved member of SigEp. He now serves as Vice President of Member Development, one of the most important and time-consuming positions in the Fraternity. His passion for developing oth-



*Brett's Award for 1st Place*◆

ers and making sure their growth is as fruitful as possible makes sure we all get the most out of our college and fraternity experience. Brett already had a full plate when he took on the position, but his commitment to his brothers made it a no-brainer to accept the calling to provide benefit to his best friends.

So what comes next for Brett? Graduate school for a PhD in biomedical engineering - hopefully at Duke University, the University of Pennsylvania, or MIT. Brett plans to take classes and conduct research during the day and continue to moonlight for

OncoFilter in his free time. The sky is the limit for Brett, and he plans to fulfill the potential of his future and then some. But how did he get here? What gave him these opportunities? It lies in the question he asks each of his interviewees. Brett believes: “You have to find something you are passionate about, become the best around, and then the opportunities will fall from the sky.” Brett became an expert in biomedical engineering and developed an idea that could change the world. He’s found his niche, and Brett will not rest until every one of his brothers find theirs as well. ◆



*Brett at the Board of Trustees Meeting*◆