

THE ETA NEWS

OHIO ETA CHAPTER • SIGMA PHI EPSILON
MIAMI UNIVERSITY • SPRING 2009



60th Anniversary for Ohio Eta: Event in the Tent VIII

The following classes will be celebrating reunions:

Class of 2004 - 5th

Dr. Jon Wisler '04
jwisler1@gmail.com
(614) 937-2917

Class of 1999 - 10th

Darren McNair '99
mcnairda@yahoo.com
(614) 222-4288

Class of 1984 - 25th

Bruce Klineman '84
bruce.klineman@neacelukena.com
(317) 826-1854



These brothers from the Class of 1959 attended their 45th anniversary reunion in 2004, and have all committed to attend the 50th anniversary celebration.

Class of 1959 - 50th

Harry Thomalla '59
hthomalla@comcast.net
(313) 407-3739

Class of 1949 - 60th and 1942-1954 - 55th

Harold T. Redden '50
(513) 293-2731

Class of 1994

Class of 1989

Class of 1979

Class of 1974

Class of 1969

Class of 1964

All above years:

Mark Durket
mdurket@rsanet.com
(800) 543-1831

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A variety of anniversary classes will convene in Oxford and at the SigEp House to celebrate special milestone reunions this June when three events come together: SigEp's Event in a Tent VIII, the Ohio Eta Chapter's 60th anniversary and Miami University's Bicentennial Celebration.

"Most of these events are really open to any SigEp brother," explained reunion coordinator **Mark Durket '76**. "There is a special emphasis on the key anniversary years, and they always draw the largest participation."

In addition to key Sigma Phi Epsilon events outlined below, Miami University will celebrate the institution's Bicentennial during **Alumni Weekend, June 18 - 21, 2009**. Additional information about all of the University's planned activities, including a dynamic Alumni Symposium can be found at www.miamialum.org.



Class of 1959 50th Class Reunion Special Event:



In addition to all of the planned University events, the SigEp activities will kick off on **Wednesday, June 17, 2009**, when the Class of 1959 holds their **50th Anniversary Dinner at the Marcum Center** from 5:30-9:00 p.m.

The cost for dinner is \$30 per person. A generous alumnus has agreed to provide drinks for all those in attendance.

Any brother interested in attending this event is welcome. For more information or to RSVP, contact **Harry Thomalla '59** at hthomalla@comcast.net or **Mark Durket '76** at mdurket@rsanet.com.

Ohio Eta's 60th Anniversary: Open House Invitation to all Alumni

Although specific classes may hold specific activities, all Ohio Eta alumni are encouraged to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the chapter as a whole.

A series of events are planned at the SigEp Residential Learning Community located at 224 E Church St over the weekend that include food, fun and festivities. An open house will take place on **Saturday, June 20, 2009**, from **11:00am to 6:00pm** for all Alumni, their friends and loved ones.

"I hope all alumni will come reminisce about 60 years of our fraternity and

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Class Reunion Planning Details

In addition to the 50th Anniversary Dinner, class leaders are in the early stages of putting together some class-specific activities. To learn more or offer assistance for your time period, contact the class leader identified on the left-hand side of this page.

2009 Ohio Eta Executive Board

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(513) 324-0556
swormsdp@muohio.edu

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VP of Programming
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fernjanja@muohio.edu

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Jim Anter '10
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anterja@muohio.edu

Kyle Duffy '11
VP of Recruitment
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duffykg@muohio.edu

Nick Lupica '10
Chaplain
(716) 359-3015
lupicani@muohio.edu

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VP of Communications
(303) 947-9900
viseurjp@muohio.edu

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plummeaj@muohio.edu

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(800) 955-ALUM (2586)
www.OmegaAlumniServices.com

Ohio Eta 60th Anniversary

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brotherhood, laugh about memories of toga parties, Mac'n'Joes, Boars Head Saloon, The Purity, Toasted Rolls at Tuffy's, virtue, diligence, brotherly love, painting the rock at Evans Scholars, and to top them all...turning uptown buildings into a bra like the brothers did in 1956," said Vice President of Communication **Joe Viseur '11**.

To learn more about the 60th anniversary activities, contact Vice President of Communication Joe Viseur at viseurjp@muohio.edu or (303) 947-9900.

Ohio Eta Grows to 117 Members; Completes Successful Spring Recruitment



Members of the 32-man Sigma class prior to serenading Zeta Tau Alpha.

The Ohio Eta chapter has grown to 117 members thanks to a record-setting Formal Rush program this semester.

SigEp had a record number of potential members come through its doors (approximately 215) which allowed the chapter to selectively identify and select the very best class possible.

The chapter extended 33 bids. Thirty-one young men accepted those bids. After extending one more bid during the second Rush cycle, SigEp's new freshmen class stands at 32.

"I am proud to say that we brought in a phenomenal class," said Chapter President **Daniel Swormstedt '10**. "This brings our total number of active members up to 117. We owe all our success to all of the Brothers that preceded us and made this possible."

Congratulations and welcome to the new brothers of Sigma Phi Epsilon!

Adrian Bonnin
Andy Miller
Anthony Welsch
Austin Serbin
Ben Richards
Brian Schlabig
Cameron Innis
Cameron Murray
Colin Vidika
Dan Dowd
Daniel Schutzman
Eric Anderson
Ethan Carey
Hayden Merkle
Hunter Stenback
Joe Bibelhausen

Joe Poyma
Joe Turk
John Sugar
Josh Benedetti
Kyle Fitzgerald
Kyle Hetrick
Kyle Roshberg
Kyle Rubright
Matt Ressmeyer
Max Kirby
Michael Perkins
Phil Curl
Tom Alshouse
Trevor Boswell
Tyler Conway
Will Osterfeld

A New VP of Operations

Ohio Eta elected a new Vice President of Operations during the Chapter meeting held on February 8th, 2009. The new VP of Operations, **Anderson Plummer '11**, will hold the position for the chapter until the regular April 2009 election date. Plummer demonstrates a great deal of organization and desire to improve the condition of the house in any way possible. During the election, he boldly stated, "I want to give back to this great organization and leave this house in better shape than when I moved in. I want to enjoy this house for years

to come, as an active brother as well as an alumnus, and will do anything within my reach to keep it as one of the top fraternity houses on this campus."

SigEp Hosts TAKE Defense Class

Under the leadership of **William Hoyt '10**, Sigma Phi Epsilon hosted TAKE Defense, a women's self defense class with approximately 100 women in attendance.

Carlson Leadership Academy Inspires Executive Board



Members of the Executive Board at the Carlson Leadership Academy in Chicago. Pictured (from L to R): Kyle Duffy VP of Recruitment '11, Joe Viseur VP of Communications '11, Nick Lupica Chaplain '10, Jim Anter VP of Member Development '10, Dan Swormstedt President '10, Eric Anderson VP of Finance '10 and Jon Fernandez VP of Programming '10.

Ohio Eta continues to benefit from educational programs offered by the Sigma Phi Epsilon National Headquarters. Recently, the chapter executive board travelled to Lombard, Illinois to attend the Carlson Leadership Conference.

"The opportunity to see our Fraternity on a national level increased our knowledge of the brotherhood and gave us necessary skills and an understanding of how to run our chapter effectively," said Chaplain **Nick Lupica '10**.

Chapters from multiple SigEp districts attend the Carlson Leadership Academy together.

"The meeting was not under idle pretense, but for the national fraternity to give us many of the necessary tools to make our chapter better," explained Lupica. "The gathering also allowed us to hear what other chapters were doing, how we can use some of their techniques and learn from their mistakes. It was a great bonding experience for our executive board allowing us to be entrenched in issues that plague our fraternity while we worked together to solve them under the guidance of our national chapter."

"I am proud to say that after attending the Carlson Leadership Academy in Chicago, not only are we a top chapter on Miami's campus, we are one of

the top three chapters within the Midwest," said Chapter President **Daniel Swormstedt '10**. "Our Executive Board took charge in almost all of our position meetings, leading other SigEp chapters to espouse to our high Ohio Eta ideals. The Executive Board also found out how lucky we are to have a great Alumni Board and a multitude of other active alumni."

The commitment by Sigma Phi Epsilon to "building balanced leaders" is strong, and is evident in the Fraternity's success nationally and Ohio Eta's prominence.

More Accolades for the Ohio Eta Chapter!

- Phi Beta Kappa Wheelhouse Award for a chapter with a GPA above 3.15
- Manpower Award for a Chapter with more than 90 members
- Second highest GPA of all fraternities for the Fall 2008 semester
- President of Club Baseball
- President of Club Football
- Head of the Standards Board for Alpha Kappa Psi Business Fraternity
- Vice President of the Water Ski Team



Brothers (from L to R) John Kramp '09, Jim Anter '10, Nick Lupica '10, Owen Biglin '10 and Ryan Brown '10 at the cigar tasting brotherhood event at Jungle Jums.

Below: Actives cheer on the football team during Greek Week.



SigEp is Weathering the Financial Storm Thanks to Careful Financial Management & Alumni Support

Thanks to prudent financial management and generous support from dozens of Ohio Eta alumni, parents, actives and friends, Sigma Phi Epsilon is weathering the economic crisis impacting most Americans.

The Ohio Eta Alumni Board has taken extraordinary measures to preserve the chapter house and the investment made by so many donors and supporters. In the summer of 2008, the original 5-year balloon mortgage was renegotiated with Eaton National Bank and a new mortgage was signed at a rate of 6.92% for the next five years.

To continue to weather the storm and secure the fraternity's financial future, alumni are asked to buy an engraved brick to be placed at the chapter house. The funds raised from the brick campaign are used to reduce the mortgage on the chapter house allowing the AVC to continue making permanent capital improvements with operating funds and upgrades and to ensure continued financial strength.

"Our goal is to leave future SigEps debt-free," said Alumni Board President **Graham Mitchell '73**. "Alumni can help reduce the chapter's debt and pay down the mortgage by purchasing a brick in the *Leave Your Legacy* campaign."

Full of amenities for the twenty-first century college student, the new SigEp house came with a hefty price tag - more than \$1.5 million.

Since the house opened, the alumni board has invested additional money into the facility, put away nearly \$250,000 in an emergency reserve fund and paid more than \$390,000 on the mortgage.

Thanks to careful management, the original mortgage of nearly \$1.2 million has been reduced to \$802,440.

"Our goal, right now, is to continue to reduce the overall debt, decrease operating expenses and ensure long-

term viability," explained Mitchell. "In the process, we also hope to beautify the grounds of the house and recognize our alumni supporters with an engraved brick bearing their name or the name of a loved one they choose."

Alumni have responded to this call for support once again by generously pledging \$81,050.

Individuals, families or groups can purchase a brick for \$10,000, \$5,000, \$3,000 and \$1,200. In most cases, donors can spread their payments out over one to five years. Donors can permanently leave their mark on the SigEp house by having a classic 4" x 8" or 8" x 8" brick paver engraved with their name or the names of several brothers. Engraved bricks will fill the "Garden of Bricks" outside of the chapter house.

Alumni and friends can learn more about the program and purchase a brick online by visiting www.ohioeta.com and clicking on the Alumni links or by completing and returning the form on the next page.

When SigEp is ready to order the bricks later this year, members of the Alumni Board will contact donors to finalize their brick inscription information.

"We've already raised more than \$81,000 toward our \$200,000 goal," said "If you buy our \$1,200 brick, you can pay just \$50 a month over the two-year pledge period," said brick campaign chairman **Jim "Sarge" Wilson '58**. You can write us a check or tell us to charge your credit card each month. We'll accommodate your situation. I think most brothers can afford \$50 a month. And, that small gift will have a big impact on the fraternity."

To learn more about the brick campaign, contact **Jim Wilson '58** at (847) 302-8548 or MTSFacilitator@aol.com or visit www.ohioeta.com.

VP of Communications Address to the Alumni

Hello brothers! My name is **Joe Viseur '11**, and I am the newly elected Vice President of Communications for Ohio Eta. I am your connection to the active chapter, and look forward to meeting as many of you as I can.

Recently, the current executive board attended the Carlson Leadership Academy in Chicago. As the VP of Communications, I participated in discussions and planning sessions regarding alumni relations. As I discussed and debated with other VP of Communications, I was astounded by the lack of support from alumni at some chapters. I did not realize how lucky we are at Ohio Eta to have such supportive alumni!

Your capital campaign to build the chapter its current house, and your continuing contributions (both financial and otherwise) to the active chapter have a lasting effect on our success. We have the lowest fraternity dues on campus, have the nicest house on campus, and, I believe, the strongest brotherhood on campus. Our numbers reflect that: We have about 120 active members, were second on campus in grades last semester, and had 215 prospective visit our house during rush, the most out of ANY fraternity on campus, among other accolades. We have your diligence to thank, and our indebted to your allegiance to Sigma Phi Epsilon and Ohio Eta.

I have learned from many of you that Brotherly Love does not end when you leave Miami. That ideal is one that stays with brothers forever. We are indebted to your support, as we would not be the thriving chapter we are today without all of you. The Ohio Eta chapter looks forward to seeing many of you soon!

In Virtue, Diligence, and
Brotherly Love,

Joe Viseur '11
VP of Communications



Ohio Eta Alumni Board Financial Information

Balances as of 1/2/2009:

▪ Checking	\$81,094
▪ Savings	\$57,715
▪ National Rainy Day	\$113,628 (plus 12/31 accrued interest)
▪ Mortgage	\$802,442**
▪ Estimate of Equity	\$638,000

**Original mortgage amount \$942,500.

Total debt paid off since 2004: \$140,058 1st mortgage + \$250,000 2nd mortgage = **\$390,058

Campaign Giving & Recognition Levels

\$1,200 - Bricklayer: Donors who pledge a minimum of \$1,200 (just \$50 per month over a two-year period) can permanently leave their mark on the Sigma Phi Epsilon house by having a classic 4" x 8" brick paver engraved with their name or the name of a loved one.

\$3,000 - Brickmaker: For just \$125 per month over two years (\$3,000 total), donors can have an over-sized 8" x 8" brick paver engraved. Legacies and family members are encouraged to purchase an 8" x 8" brick together.

\$5,000 - Brickmason: In addition to receiving a 4" x 8" engraved brick, donors contributing \$5,000 will also receive a beautiful 8" x 16" Giclee print of the former SigEp house and Annex painted by **Billy Gordon '82**.

\$10,000 - Brickmaster: To secure the chapter's financial independence and security, leadership gifts of \$10,000 are more critically needed. Individuals can make a \$10,000 pledge over a five-year period. Brickmasters will receive the large 8" x 8" brick and a 16" x 36" size Giclee print of the old SigEp House and Annex.

\$25,000 & Higher - 224 East Church Street Society: The most-used and visible spaces within the SigEp House will be named in honor and memory of brothers who make truly significant gifts to the chapter. New bedrooms, the fitness room, the back patio and other public spaces are available for naming. Naming opportunities provide a wonderful opportunity to remember a family member or fellow fraternity brother.



Gifts to the Campaign

Gifts to support this campaign can be paid by cash, check, credit card and appreciated securities. Donors can make and pay gifts over a time period of one or five years (depending on the gift level) with a payment scheduled customized to meet each donor's preference. Gifts should be made payable and sent to our campaign counsel and gift-processing firm, Omega Financial.

Make checks payable to:
Omega Financial

Mail to: Omega Financial, Inc.
PO Box 2187
Columbus, GA 31902
(800) 955-ALUM (2586)
alumniservices@omegafi.com

ΣΦΕ

☐ Yes, I want to leave my legacy at Ohio Eta. I'm willing to pledge:

527 - 63 - News 0309

I'm willing to pledge:

☐ \$1,200 over 1 2 years (please circle)

☐ \$3,000 over 1 2 years (please circle)

☐ \$5,000 over 1 2 3 4 5 years (please circle)

☐ \$10,000 over 1 2 3 4 5 years (please circle)

☐ \$25,000 over 1 2 3 4 5 years (please circle)

☐ Other: \$_____ over 1 2 3 4 5 years (please circle)

Payment Options:

Please bill me: ☐ annually ☐ twice a year
☐ quarterly ☐ monthly

I wish to make my first payment: ☐ now ☐ on _____

☐ I will pay by check made payable to "Omega Financial." Please send me a reminder based on the schedule I indicated above.

☐ I'd like to pay by having you draft my bank account according to the schedule I indicated above.

Routing Number: _____

Account Number: _____

☐ I will pay by credit card. Please charge my credit card according to the schedule I indicated above.

Name: _____

Card Number: _____

Home Address: _____

Exp. Date: _____

City/State/Zip _____

Home Phone: _____

Name on Card: _____

Work Phone: _____

Email: _____

Signature: _____

** Donors will be contacted in a few months for their specific brick inscription information.

Return to:

Ohio Eta Campaign #527-63 • Omega Financial • PO Box 2187 • Columbus, GA 31902 • Fax: (706) 571-0043

Or make a pledge online at www.ohioeta.com

www.ohioeta.com

SigEps Recall Homecoming 1956



These pictures were taken by Doc Gordon prior to the 1956 homecoming. The Bra was placed on the Annex. President Millet was not amused and threatened to close the house. The two men in the picture by the ladder are Dave Baker '57 and Harley Chapman '56. Harley was a marine pilot and was shot down over Vietnam. He spent six years as a POW in North Korea.

Alumni Donate New, Permanent Grill to the House

The undergraduate chapter will enjoy a new permanently installed charcoal grill at the house starting with the Spring 2009 semester thanks to a generous donation by **Josef Storm '02** and two pledges made by brothers **Fernando Belli '02** and **Vinay Dugarilla '02**. The heavy duty commercial quality grill should provide years of service for grilling JTM hamburgers for the undergraduates and should enhance alumni events.



Brother to Brother



Ryan McCarihan '00 is engaged to be married to Catherine Wuduring during the summer of 2009. Ryan is very happy for this event in his life (see photo) and is looking forward to many years of happiness.

Do you have news you'd like to share with your brothers? Post interesting information about yourself online at www.ohioeta.com or send them to Brant Smith '02 at smithbh2@yahoo.com. Did you recently get married? Have a baby? Change jobs? Retire? Let us know. Post your news today.

Hard Work by Alumni Board Pays Off: SigEp National Grants for House Improvements Are a Possibility...

Under an innovative grant program developed by the Sigma Phi Epsilon National Headquarters, Ohio Eta may qualify for a \$12,000 grant to cover the costs spent remodeling the room for the Resident Scholar, a live-in advisor at the chapter house. In addition as much as \$7,000 may be available to help pay for furniture in the study room and other

Alumni Invited to Fifth Annual Birdies and Burgers Golf Outing

The Fifth Annual Birdies and Burgers golf outing will take place on **Saturday, April 25, 2009, at 1:00pm** at the Hueston Woods golf course.

Six groups of four are reserved, with room for several more foursomes.

The annual golf outing puts SigEp Alumni in groups with graduating SigEp Seniors - to wish them well on their graduation.

"This is one of the most enjoyable events of the spring for the chapter," said Vice President of Communication **Joe Viseur '11**.

Last year's golf outing was such a great success that the chapter will host additional events before the tournament and after it at the chapter house.

Alumni can participate by paying \$28 which covers the cost of 18 holes of golf and the \$13 cart fee. To participate, **alumni must RSVP by April 9, 2009.**

To participate or to learn more contact Vice President of Communication **Joe Viseur '11** at viseurjp@muohio.edu or 303-947-9900.

educational areas of the chapter house, known as a Residential Learning Center.

In the coming week **Mark Durket '76** and **Graham Mitchell '73** will work with Ryan McCavitt and Scott Thompson at the Sigma Phi Epsilon Headquarters to complete the necessary grant applications to apply for these funds.

who exemplify Leadership, Gentlemanly Conduct, Excellence in Academics and Superior Athletics.

The SigEp Scholarship is the most prestigious scholarship awarded by a fraternal organization on campus.



www.ohioeta.com

Alumni Board of Trustees

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VP - Housing

Mark Durket '76
VP - Resource Group

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William 'Doc' Gordon '57

Tom Sherr '78

Scott Shadrick '71

Jim Wilson '58

Brad Young '05

Joe Hornsby '06

Please contact Mark Durket '76 at mdurket@rsanet.com if you are interested in serving.

Visit the Sigma Phi Epsilon Website

Visit www.ohioeta.com, the official Eta Chapter alumni website, to:

- Learn more about the chapter
- Search for alumni
- Update your address, phone number and e-mail address
- Find out about upcoming events
- Post noteworthy accomplishments (a new baby, a recent marriage, a recent promotion, etc.)
- Support the new house campaign
- Buy a brick to be placed on the grounds of the house
- Join the Ohio Eta Alumni & Friends Association



Above and below: Photos from Homecoming 2007.



Alumni Invited . . .

All alumni are invited to the following events:

April 25, 2009:

5th Annual Birdies & Burgers Golf
Outing
Hueston Woods

June 17, 2009:

Class of 1959 50th Anniversary
Dinner
Marcum Center

June 20, 2009:

Ohio Eta's 60th Anniversary
Celebration and Open House
Sigma Phi Epsilon Residential
Learning Community
224 East Church Street

See the related articles inside and
get the latest information online at
www.ohioeta.com.

ΣΦΕ



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