

THE ETA NEWS

OHIO ETA CHAPTER • SIGMA PHI EPSILON
MIAMI UNIVERSITY • FALL 2016



William “Doc” Gordon Leadership Development Endowment Established

The OH Eta Alumni Volunteer Corporation recently established the William M. “Doc” Gordon OH Eta Leadership Development Endowment through Miami University in honor of long-time advisor **Doc Gordon '57**. The endowment is in remembrance of his positive impact on OH Eta and the many brothers he mentored and supported. The Alumni Board recognized Doc for his dedication to the chapter by announcing the new endowment during the annual Alumni Reunion Weekend. The endowment will benefit the chapter by providing scholarships and funding leadership development programs arranged by **Bill Greer '81** and the Leadership Development Committee.

Alumni are able to contribute directly to this endowment through Miami University to support and sustain OH Eta and the membership experience the chapter has to



Dr. William “Doc” M. Gordon '57

offer. All gifts are 100% tax-deductible and a variety of assets can be contributed: cash, appreciated securities and deferred gifts/bequests. All gifts are recognized by Miami similar to any other charitable gifts made to the university. A report of grants from the endowment will appear every year in the *Eta News*, allowing alumni to see the full impact of their contribution on the chapter.

Select alumni have already made commitments to get the endowment off the ground. Significantly, the undergraduate chapter also made a \$2,500 commitment to show their support. We are seeking “Endowment Founders” to give leading gifts or deferred bequests at this level or above over five years to reach an initial required threshold. Endowment Founders will receive special acknowledgement at the fraternity house to recognize their leadership in this effort. If you are interested in becoming an Endowment Founder, please contact **Mark Durket '76** at mdurket@rsanet.com.

Additional information regarding the Doc Gordon Leadership Development Endowment, including the contribution commitment form, can be found at www.ohioetaalumni.com.

OH ETA HISTORY COMPILED

Did you ever learn about the complete history of our OH Eta chapter? Well, you can now find a unique and comprehensive catalogue extending all the way back to 1922 on our alumni website at www.ohioetaalumni.com.

“We wanted to highlight the unique history of OH Eta while preserving it for alumni and the chapter to use in the Sigma Challenge; creating a ‘lifetime dimension’ for current and future brothers,” said **Joe Hornsby '06**. “It reinforces we are all part of something much bigger than ourselves, or any single person, and we all play an important role in writing a successful future for OH Eta.”



OH Eta's original house on 224 East Church Street.

ΣΦΕ

Those involved used multiple sources to gather the history, such as online archives (*SigEp Journal*, which contains material dating back to 1904), newsletters (*The Omegan* 1924-1937 - Theta Upsilon Omega) and the *Recensio* yearbooks.

“I’m not sure of all who are involved in this effort, but many names and facts of the initial years reflect my memories,” said **Bob Albright '51**. “Very well done and I’m very impressed with the detail and accuracy of facts concerning OH Eta history.”

If you have additional historical information or photos, please email Joe Hornsby at hornsbjm@gmail.com.

2016 Ohio Eta Executive Board

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Blake Suponcic '18
Akron, OH
Biology, Pre-Medical
Studies Major

VP of Programming

Ryan Prescott '18
Cincinnati, OH
Finance Major

VP of Finance

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Business Analytics, Supply
Chain and Operations
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OH Eta Prepares for a Great Year – WINS Greek Week

The 87 active brothers of OH Eta are maintaining a positive presence on campus and in the surrounding community. In preparation for a great semester, brothers attended a Leadership Development (LDC) workshop on September 18. This workshop focuses on the Balanced Man Program (BMP) and living our SigEp values, as well as working together in setting and achieving chapter goals.

As we move toward fall recruitment, the chapter plans to initiate three to five new brothers and then focus on spring recruitment, where they plan to add at least 35-40 new members during formal recruitment.

Much focus has also been on housing and improving the housing experience for our brothers in light of requirements and initiatives of the university. Working with SigEp National Housing (SENH) as well as taking advantage of a \$500 house improvement program offered by IFC is taking strides in the right direction for the house.

The Balanced Man Scholarship (BMS) Banquet is November 9. This event is used as a recruiting event where our values of Sound Mind & Sound Body are highlighted, while recognizing freshmen who exemplify those values.

As always, SigEp brothers are dedicated to giving back to the community through philanthropy. On October 9, OH Eta was involved in hosting a suicide prevention walk on campus to raise awareness and funds for suicide and mental health problems. This event raised over \$8,000. Additionally, Brother **Sam Becker '17** is organizing a chapter service day at the Cincinnati Therapeutic Riding and Horsemanship facility where brothers and alumni can give a day of service to people with disabilities, including wounded warriors.

Not only are OH Eta brothers busy in the community, but they are also active on campus. They recently won Greek Week this year, after an honorable second place showing last year!

Visit Our New and Improved Alumni Website!



Visit www.ohioetaalumni.com - the official OH Eta website to:

- Search for alumni
- Update your address, phone number and email
- Post noteworthy accomplishments (a new baby, a recent marriage or promotion, etc.)
- Check out newsletters from the past and present
- Read our chapter's history - as far back as 1922!
- Learn about our Chapter Initiatives
- Check the status of ongoing fundraising efforts
- Connect with us on social media
- Utilize our Online Leasing and Brother Portals for housing

Brothers Complete Successful Summer Internships

Many brothers enjoyed great internship opportunities this past summer. Some of those include (not a complete list):

Alex Bracken '17 - Cintas, Distribution Intern

Jake Hoffmann '17 - ODW Logistics, Operations Intern

Alex Immel '17 - NBC 5 Chicago, Sales and Marketing Intern

Connor McDermott '17 - Deloitte, Audit Intern

Ryan Prescott '18 - Guardian Savings Bank, Accounting Intern

Ryland Puzitiello '17 - Deloitte, Advisory Intern

Joe Reibel '17 - The Hackett Group, Management Consultant Intern

Landen Stair '18 - Dana Inc., Finance/Capital Forecasting Intern

MEMBER DEVELOPMENT CORNER

The Balanced Man Program (BMP) consists of four member development challenges through which brothers progress through "rites of passage" of the SigEp initiation ceremony. More info about the BMP can be found at www.ohioetaalumni.com.

Chapter Status:

Challenge	# Brothers	Coordinator
Sigma (Σ)	0*	Le Chiodo '18
Phi (Φ)	29	Ryan Cooper '18
Epsilon (Ε)	38	Lorenzo Guidi '19
Brother Mentor	13	Christos Zinis '19

* will include new members Fall 2016 and Spring 2017

OH Eta Brother Quests to Greece

Tragos Quest to Greece is a SigEp summer overseas experience unlike any other program in the fraternity world. During a ten day journey in Greece, each participant pushes their mental and physical limits. Before the trip begins, the program requires scholars to prepare for their upcoming Greece experience by studying multiple books, classic writings and plays. All of this hard work pays off when they arrive in Greece and get a firsthand experience of the very mountains and seas they read about before embarking on their journey.



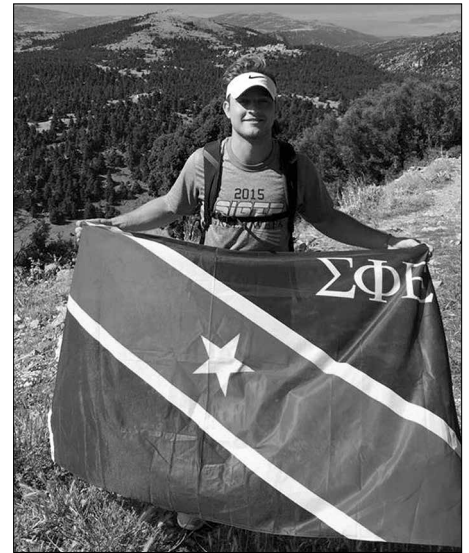
Current Chapter President Blake Suponic '18 (middle), was one of 19 SigEp brothers selected from 500 applicants to attend the summer 2016 Tragos Quest to Greece.

Only 19 SigEp brothers from over 500 applicants around the country are chosen to experience this unforgettable trip. This year, OH Eta's Chapter President, **Blake Suponic '18**, was selected to attend Tragos Quest to Greece. Suponic is the first OH Eta brother ever chosen to participate in this experience.

During the ten day journey, Suponic along with 18 other undergraduate brothers, explored the origins of fraternities and the Greek ideals on which SigEp was founded. The days were rigorous and filled with many long, in-depth discussions. The Questers traveled to Athens, Nafplio, Delphi, Olympia, Corinth and other smaller surrounding cities. While in these cities, the scholars visited many ancient archaeological sites such as the Acropolis and the Temple of Poseidon.

"This experience allowed me to meet outstanding brothers and mentors from other chapters and impressed upon me the importance of our ritual and Greek roots of our fraternity," said Suponic.

Tragos Quest to Greece is an unparalleled leadership and spiritual experience offered only to SigEps. This life-changing experience provides current brothers and



Blake Suponic proudly displays the SigEp flag during Tragos Quest to Greece this summer.

mentors a chance to understand the history and meaning of our fraternity firsthand. Alumni interested in serving as a Quest mentor may contact SigEp Career Preparedness Director Davis Orr at davis.orr@sigep.net.

Sam Becker '17 Continues to Encourage Others to Always Have Hope

The last edition of the *Eta News* highlighted Sam Becker's goal to share the gift of hope with a Kickstarter Campaign, coined "Pave Your Path Project." During this campaign, Becker documented his trip across Europe on social media platforms to raise awareness for cerebral palsy.

Recently, SigEp Headquarters recognized Becker by featuring his blog post on their website. This post, titled "My Fraternity and My Cerebral Palsy" discusses the impact of the bond Becker has with his OH Eta brothers. "Because of the men of SigEp, my walls of insecurity have fallen exponentially," said Becker. "Ultimately, my brothers provided me with the added belief that I can achieve anything I set my mind to, not *despite* CP but *because* of it."

Due to Becker's brotherhood and leadership, the chapter is organizing a service day at Cincinnati Therapeutic Riding and



Sam Becker '17 (center-left, wearing a shirt with SigEp letters) with his OH Eta brothers.

Horsemanship. Sam is heavily involved with this program and would like to share this experience with his brothers while assisting young children diagnosed with CP and other people with disabilities. This or-

ganization not only does great things in the Cincinnati community, but also benefits the chapter in developing servant-leaders and men for others.



To read more about Sam Becker's journey and ongoing efforts, please visit the websites and blog posts below.

Sam's Blog on SigEp.org: www.sigep.org/blog/my-fraternity-and-my-cerebral-palsy.html

Pave Your Path Project: www.kickstarter.com/projects/402629616/the-pave-your-path-project

Cincinnati Therapeutic Riding and Horsemanship: www.ctrh-online.org

Puzzitiello Establishes Scholarships for Miami University



Richard Puzzitiello, Sr. '60 and his wife, Carol

Miami University has always held a special place in the hearts of **Richard Puzzitiello, Sr. '60** and his wife, Carol. The success that Puzzitiello experienced would not have been possible without the help of scholarships. "Success in sports, life and career," Puzzitiello said, "If I hadn't had a scholarship to attend Miami, I wouldn't have met my wife. Business school, combined with what I learned from football, accelerated my success as a sales manager, builder and developer. It all came together for me at Miami."

Not only did Puzzitiello and his wife attend Miami University, but generations of Puzzitiellos also followed in their footsteps by attending the University – and became SigEp brothers! Most recently, their grandson, Regan Puzzitiello, became the eighth Puzzitiello to attend Miami.

To show their appreciation, Puzzitiello and his wife recently endowed two scholarships for Miami University - one supporting the Farmer School of Business and the other supporting Miami Football. In honor of the Puzzitiellos and their gift, Miami University presented them with a framed article. **Ryland Puzzitiello '17** gave this framed article to OH Eta, and it will hang at the house in the Puzzitiello Library for years to come.

The article is a proud display and reminder of the values of OH Eta – scholarship, athletics and giving back to Miami and the surrounding community.

To read the full article published by Miami University, please visit www.forloveandhonor.org, click on "News" and scroll down to the article titled "Puzzitiello Scholarships Offer Opportunity to Future Miamians."



This framed article now proudly displays at the chapter house and serves as a reminder of the values of Sigma Phi Epsilon.

Alumni Spotlight: Amir Abtahi '06 & Zach Tempel '06

Never would OH Eta roommates **Zach Tempel '06** and **Amir Abtahi '06** have guessed fate would bring them back together in the operating room at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. After graduating from college and attending separate medical schools, these brothers prove the SigEp bond can withstand the test of time and distance.

Tempel and Abtahi first met as friendly rivals in a science class their freshman year, both with their sights set on a medical career. They quickly became close friends, constantly challenging each other to be better students and men. Both realized they needed each other's encouragement to complete their degrees, and if either let off the gas pedal, neither would reach their full potential.



Fate brought brothers and roommates Zach Tempel '06 (right) and Amir Abtahi '06 (left) back together to complete a spine fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.

"SigEp was the perfect platform for us to build the foundation of our medical careers while fostering an extremely important brotherhood that exists to this

day," said Tempel. "Virtue, Diligence and Brotherly Love were our principles as we navigated through college and medical school at Indiana University (Tempel) and Vanderbilt (Abtahi)."

A decade later, Tempel is completing neurosurgery training at the University of Pittsburgh and Abtahi finished his orthopedics residency at the University of Utah. Only fate could lead their professional lives back together as they both spent the past year completing a spine fellowship together at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.

"I can't think of a better way to reach the 15-year summit of medical training than with my SigEp brother and previous roommate from 224 East Church Street," said Abtahi.



Balanced Man Ambassador: Scott H. Shadrick '71

Looking Back

As president of OH Eta almost 50 years ago, I wrote an article for the SigEp *Journal* entitled "Our Kind of Brotherhood." Recently, I was asked to reflect back on this article and share how my experiences as chapter president and as a SigEp National Representative influenced me post-college. I do not typically like writing about my own accomplishments, however, I felt I'd be doing the fraternity an injustice by not sharing how I believe SigEp to be an important influence on my life.

"Our Kind of Brotherhood" focused on what makes a fraternity strong and what sets us apart from other social groups. I wrote about building strong relationships, working together and having fun together. Truly, all of us who took on responsibilities in running the chapter, at an early age, grew from the experience. As social chairman, I can remember the pressure of getting the right band, making sure they showed up, decorating or finding the right location and then bringing it all together at or under budget. I faced many challenges as president, which gave me a head start on the peaks and valleys I'd experience advancing my own career and building my own business.

After Miami graduation, I spent a year on the road as a SigEp National Representative, and then went back to Miami for graduate work. After completing my graduate work, I moved from Ohio to the West Coast with \$800 in my pocket. I ended up in Newport Beach, California in the middle of a recession. There were very few job opportunities, especially for a young guy with no experience. Just before I was about to run out of money, I had a successful interview with a national packaging company. They told me I was hired for the sales division because of the experience I gained from my undergraduate and national fra-

ternity roles. I've never forgotten my future supervisor's words: "If you can do *that*, you can do this." I went on to prove him right. I used my relationship building skills to acquire new accounts and advanced quickly into several levels of management, until leaving to start my own company.

At the age of thirty-one, my partner and I bought a store front business. Over the next twenty years we grew it into a statewide operation with hundreds of employees. California, at the time, was the fifth largest economy in the world and we were able to become one of the largest companies in the country for our field. What set us apart, and ultimately what gave us a superior product, was our attention to hiring the right people. We worked long hours and when you are surrounded by people you enjoy, it makes all the difference in the experience. At times, hundreds of people were interviewed for one position. All applicants had to have the required experience to be interviewed, and at interview time, it all came down to just looking for the right personality... relationship building.

We sold our company in 2000, and ran the company who bought us for the next three years. I was fortunate to work hard and retire young at the age of fifty-three. Today, I'm a private equity investor in developmental, disruptive technology companies. A few of our companies are months away from commercialization and will have a positive impact on some of the products we all use every day.

My most recent involvement with the fraternity was as co-chair for fundraising to build our existing house at Miami. It was fun renewing fraternal friendships and being exposed to the "Balanced Men" of OH Eta. I believe in the Balanced Man concept and have probably embraced the principles through most of my adult life.



Scott H. Shadrick '71

Today, I live primarily in a small mountain, ski town in Idaho with my partner, best friend, and spouse of forty years. We are surrounded by fun, sophisticated and accomplished friends from all walks of life, many of whom are or were industry leaders. Conversations are often fascinating and reinforces my belief in the importance of *balance* in one's life.

If I may pass on one piece of advice to the SigEp undergraduates, it would be as follows: "Life is all about the ride, not about achievements, wealth, or material things; it is all about following your passions, building lasting relationships and most importantly, enjoying the experience."

— You can find Scott's "Our Kind of Brotherhood" article from 1970 in the history pages at www.ohioetaalumni.com. His words are just relevant today as they were 46 years ago.

If you are an OH Eta alum who has been successful balancing family, career, health & wellness, and embrace the Sound Mind/ Sound Body philosophy, we would like to share your story as a Balanced Man Ambassador. Email hornsbjm@gmail.com.

OH Eta Alumni Volunteers

AVC President

Joe Hornsby '06

Leadership Development Committee

Bill Greer '81 - Director
Rocco Manzo '86 - Chapter Advisor
Nathan Miller '08 - Balanced Man Steward
Cliff Anderson '80
Dave Chittock '80
Jim Clark '61
Rich Clemmensen '81
Billy Gordon '82

Steve Lauenstein '80

Ross MacIver '81

Todd Simpson '86

Tim Stafford '80

Housing Committee

Brant Smith '01 - Director
Dan McKenzie '74 - Dir. Fin. Ops & Treas.
Kyle Stadtmiller '06
Alex Hendee - SENH Asset Manager

Endowment and Reunions Committee

Mark Durket '76 - Director
Cary Dice '73 - AVC Secretary
Graham Mitchell '73

Additional Trustees

Frank Braun '81
Herb Glasgow '74
Paul Revelson '07



Sigma Phi Epsilon
Miami University (527)
PO Box 2187
Columbus, GA 31902-2187

Help us keep our alumni records up-to-date! Edit your member profile at www.ohioetaalumni.com or clip this form, place it in a stamped envelope and send to Sigma Phi Epsilon, Miami University (527), PO Box 2187, Columbus, GA 31902.

Name _____

Graduation Year _____

Address _____

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MIAMI
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2016 Alumni Reunion Weekend



Alumni pose for a photo with Doc Gordon '57 (second in from the left) while enjoying our annual Event in the Tent.

Brothers kicked off the 2016 Reunion on Friday, June 10, with a dinner at the Marcum Conference Center honoring alumnus **Doc Gordon '57**. During this event, the Alumni Board recognized Doc for his years of dedication to the chapter as an advisor by announcing a new endowment established through Miami University in his honor.

Many brothers from the classes of 1956, 1966, 1976 and 1986 came to mingle and share good memories. "The SigEp spirit really shined at the reunion dinner," said **Cary Dice '73**. "The classes of '56 and '86

turned out in force with other reunion years also represented. Bill "Doc" Gordon was honored with an MU Endowment created in his name to support SigEp brothers and ideals of our fraternity."

The reunion continued on Saturday, June 11 at the house with the traditional Event in the Tent. "It was a great weekend in Oxford," **Bill Greer '81** exclaimed. "Thanks to **Mark Durket '76** for once again organizing the alumni dinner and Event in the Tent. Also thanks to **Joe Hornsby '06** for getting the Doc Gordon leadership endowment up and running. It was great to see such a big turnout arrive to pay tribute to Doc and share good memories."

Be sure to mark your calendars for the next alumni weekend – Friday, June 9 through Sunday, June 11, 2017, in Oxford.

Event Details: Join us for 2017 Alumni Weekend Friday, June 9 - Alumni Dinner and Saturday, June 10 - Event in the Tent XVI.

2017 marks reunions for the following classes:

Class of 1957 - 60-year Reunion
 Class of 1967 - 50-year Reunion

Class of 1977 - 40-year Reunion
 Class of 1982 - 35-year Reunion
 Class of 1987 - 30-year Reunion
 Class of 1992 - 25-year Reunion
 Class of 2007 - 10-year Reunion

RSVP to **Mark Durket '76** at mdurket@rsanet.com or (513) 520-3773. Be on the lookout for additional details closer to the date of the event.

Save the Date!

Be sure to mark your calendars, so you do not miss the following events!

Miami Alumni Reunion Weekend

June 9 through June 11, 2017

Friday, June 9

Alumni Dinner

Saturday, June 10

Event in the Tent XVI

Oxford, OH

55th Grand Chapter Conclave

August 2 through August 6, 2017

Orlando, Florida