

THE ETA NEWS

OHIO ETA CHAPTER • SIGMA PHI EPSILON
MIAMI UNIVERSITY • FALL 2020



OH ETA THRIVING DURING PANDEMIC



The OH Eta executive officers gather early in the fall semester.



This OH Eta brother is moved in and ready for the 2020-21 school year.

While nobody wishes difficult times for Miami, its students, and Greek life, OH Eta brothers are doing their best to live and display our SigEp values of *virtue diligence* and *brotherly love*.

“This semester has been off to a great start; our Chapter is staying healthy during this pandemic, and we’re one of the few fraternities that hasn’t had any positive COVID-19 cases,” said VP of Communications **Ethan Biacsi ’23**. “Our exec team and Chapter are working hard to make sure that we are all staying safe and healthy during these unprecedented times. We are excited to continue leading our Chapter in the right direction.”

Two important components of Chapter operations are imperative to sustaining the brotherhood and coming through stronger on the other side: the OH Eta *brotherhood and membership experience* and *values-based*

recruitment. Together, with assistance from the Alumni Advisory Council, Chapter leadership is focused on enhancing OH Eta’s Balanced Man Program challenges, ritual progression, and Balanced Man Scholarship. This is more challenging this year and some aspects must be done differently, but SigEp is proving much more relevant than ever before. The requirements of social distancing have sparked a greater desire for brotherhood and camaraderie, and new Miami students coming to campus are drawn to the *togetherness* that SigEp welcomes.

One final positive note: Having a clean and presentable Chapter House has not only fostered a healthy and positive environment for living our *Sound Mind, Sound Body* philosophy, it has also reinvigorated an unmatched community that allows fraternities to survive and thrive at Miami and at universities across the country.

OH ETA SONGS PRESERVED ON YOUTUBE

A 1956 recording of brothers at the SigEp Chapter House at 224 E. Church Street has been digitized for your enjoyment on YouTube at tinyurl.com/OHEtaSongs.



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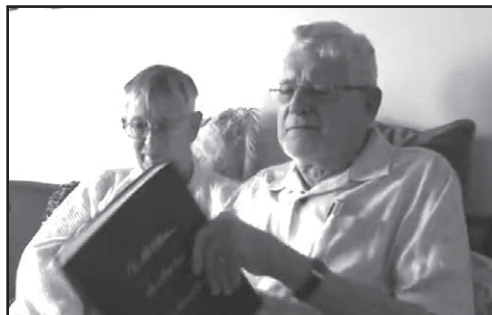
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BALANCED MAN AMBASSADOR: RALPH ERCHINGER '53

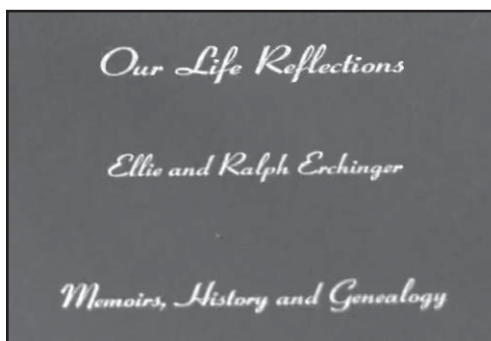
Ellie and **Ralph Erchinger '53** say that staying active throughout life, especially in aging, increases longevity, energy, and mobility. In addition to physical exercise, the Erchingers also devote regular time to exercising their minds by creating memoirs to share their stories, advice, and values with their family. For Ralph and Ellie, the Sound Mind, Sound Body philosophy extends well beyond the time we spend in our younger years and is a lifelong journey.

Ralph says he recognizes the value of physical exercise, regular volunteering, exploring hobbies, and partaking in social events. "The earlier you start exercising the better," he said. Just last year, he's lifted 3.5 million pounds and clocked 1,224 miles.

"I don't necessarily love the process, but I like the results," Ralph said. "I've had about every joint you can think of replaced, including my knees, hips and shoulders; I'm happy that I'm able to continue my lifelong pattern of exercise. I served in the Air Force for a 30-year career, and we've always been avid hikers and travelers, so being active is what we've always known."



Ellie and Ralph Erchinger '53



The cover of the Erchingers' memoir book.

In working on their memoirs, the Erchingers have compiled DVDs and books from throughout their lifetime to help with the project. "We found a wonderful *togetherness* in doing this memoir," Ellie said. "In 60 years of marriage, we have found it is important to have similar values, goals, energy levels, fitness regimes and interests. We are truly a team."

Their book contains memories of their international travels, time spent as an Air Force family, and stories of their four children. "It's important for us to just write stories—anything that maybe was a little bit exciting in our lives," they said. "It might be a little exciting for those after us."

Throughout all their life experiences, Ralph and Ellie see great value in our OH Eta *Sound Mind, Sound Body* mission by generously supporting the OH Eta Leadership Development Endowment, helping our undergraduate brothers focus and practice living a *balanced life* now and in the future.

NEW AUDITORIUM SEATING INSTALLED

This past summer, the lower level of the Chapter House was outfitted with theatre seating that accommodates 34 brothers. This multipurpose seating area can be utilized for house meetings, a group watching a game or TV show, and small presentations. Since these seats are permanently affixed to the floor, there is the added benefit of them never wandering off!

Thanks to the AVC Housing Committee for their continued efforts to improve the Chapter House!



2020 OH ETA EXECUTIVE BOARD

Chapter President
Jack Kohmann '23
Cleveland, Ohio
Accounting

VP Programming
Hudson Curtin '23
Buffalo, N.Y.
Political Science

Chaplain
Bobby Thomas '23
Canton, Ohio
Finance

VP Member
Development
Arthur Prodafikas '23
Canton, Ohio
Biology

VP Recruitment
Jack Lencyk '23
Mason, Ohio
Finance

VP Finance
Zach Giaconia '23
Boston, Mass.
Finance

VP Communication
Ethan Biacsi '23
Cleveland, Ohio
Marketing

Building Manager
Michael Ryan '23
Tampa, Fla.
Finance

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 information about the BMP can be found at miamiohio.sigep.org.

Chapter Status

Challenge	# Brothers	Challenge Coordinator
Sigma (Σ)	15*	Will DiFiore '22
Phi (Φ)	18	Jake Bopple '22
Epsilon (Ε)	5	Will DiFiore '22
Brother Mentor	0	

*Will include additional fall 2020 and spring 2021 new members

OH ETA COVID QUARANTINE CONTEST

During the height of quarantine this spring, OH Eta alumni had some fun in our alumni Facebook group. As all Miami *Recensio* yearbooks have now been digitized online, senior pictures of alumni were made into a three-round competition over a month's time for reciting names, grad years, Eta numbers, and other fun facts.

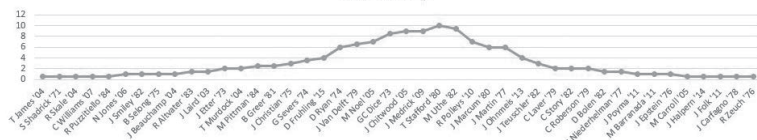
Mike Uthe '82 was crowned the overall winner with **John Medrick '09**, **Tim Stafford '80**, **Jim Marcum '80**, **John Van Delft '79**, and **Rob Polleys '10** filling out the remaining top 5. **Cary Dice '73** and **Don Ryan '74** also won individual rounds. Winners of the overall competition and each individual rounds were sent various Miami and SigEp "swagger" gifts, including puzzles, coasters, koozies, pins, glassware, and luggage tags. See below for the complete final standings of our 50 participants.

To join the Facebook group, search for "THE OFFICIAL Ohio Eta (Miami) SigEp Group" and request to join.

Name	Round #1	Round #2	Round #3	Total		
M Uthe '82	5	4.5	11	20.5	1st	
J Medrick '09		9	11	20	2nd	Rd 2 Winner
T Stafford '80	4	6	9	19	3rd	
J Marcum '80	3	3	13	19	3rd	Rd 3 Winner
J Van Delft '79	0.5	6	9	15.5	4th	
R Polleys '10	2	5	8	15	5th	
GC Dice '73	6	2.5	5.5	14	6th	Rd 1 Winner
J Chitwood '05	5	4	4.5	13.5	7th	
M Noel '05	3	4	5.5	12.5	8th	
J Martin '77		6	6	12	9th	
J Ohnmeis '13	4	7.5	11.5	11.5	10th	
C Laver '79		2	7.5	9.5	11th	
B Selong '75		1	8.5	9.5	11th	
D Ryan '74	6		3	9	12th	Rd 1 Winner
M Turney '81			9	9	12th	
T Murdock '04	0.5	1.5	5	7	13th	
B Greer '81		2.5	4	6.5	14th	
M Niederhelman '77		1.5	5	6.5	14th	
D Fruhling '15	2	2	2	6	15th	
J Poyma '11		1	5	6	15th	
T Wendeln '75			6	6	15th	
G Severs '74	3	0.5	2	5.5	16th	
M Barranada '11		1	4.5	5.5	16th	
R Zeuch '76		0.5	4	4.5	17th	
C Storey '82		2	2	4	18th	
C Roberson '79		2	2	4	18th	
D Bolen '82	0.5	1	2.5	4	18th	
J Laird '03	1	0.5	2	3.5	19th	
J Epstein '76		1	2.5	3.5	19th	
J Christian '75	3			3	20th	
J Teuschler '82	3			3	20th	
J Etter '73	2		1	3	20th	
M Pittman '84	2.5			2.5	21st	
R Puzitiello '84		0.5	2	2.5	21st	
J Carfagno '78		0.5	2	2.5	21st	
R Altvater '83	1.5		0.5	2	22nd	
R Costello '13			2	2	22nd	
J Beauchamp '04		1	0.5	1.5	23rd	
J Folk '11		0.5	1	1.5	23rd	
N Jones '06	1			1	24th	
J Smiley '82	1			1	24th	
T James '04	0.5		0.5	1	24th	
R Skale '04	0.5		0.5	1	24th	
M Carroll '05		0.5	0.5	1	24th	
D Kehn '05			1	1	24th	
R Delack '05			1	1	24th	
S Shadrick '71	0.5			0.5	25th	
C Williams '07	0.5			0.5	25th	
J Halpern '14		0.5		0.5	25th	
S Shriver '78			0.5	0.5	25th	

Final results.

Total Standings



OH Eta alumni "flattening the curve."

THANKS TO OUR DOC GORDON SIGEP LEADERSHIP FUND ENDOWMENT SUPPORTERS!

1950s

Harold Redden '50
Robert Albright '51*
David Barr '53
Ralph Erchinger '53^
Don Foerst '53
Emerson Brown '54
Paul Bezjak '56
William Cox '56
David Gourley '56
Michael Kurty '56
Charles Sedgwick '56
Irwin Seidel '56^
Earl Waltz '56
David Baker '57
William Gordon '57
Donald Lehman '57^
Clair Miller '58
Jim "Sarge" Wilson '58*

1960s

Leonard Bailey '60^
Harold Huntington Jr. '60
Daniel Keck '60
Paul McGhee '61
Kenneth Staggs '61^
Richard Flickinger '62
Stephen Downes '64
Andrew Thomas '64
Robert Hartung '65
Jack Wert '65
Walter Andersook '66
Gen. Thomas Kuenning Jr. '67
Robert Lynch '67
George Stouffer '67
Michael Edmonds '68*
Col. Ralph Polley '68

1970s

Richard Chernus '70
George Schroeder Jr. '71
David Botkin '71
Scott Shadrack '71
Thomas Barmore '72*
Scott Beeken '72
S. Douglas Engebretson '72*
William Kling '72
G. Cary Dice '73
David Dillehunt '73
Joseph Etter '73
Alan Letson '73
Graham Mitchell '73*
Michael Davis '74
Herb Glasgow '74
Thomas Gore III '74
Max Hank '74
Daniel McKenzie '74
Donald Ryan '74
Gary Barta '75^
Jan Gullett '75
Tony Wendeln '75
Mark Durket '76*
Don Lane '76^
Steve Phelps '76—
bequest

Nicholas Spadaccini '76
Mark Niederhelman '77
Bruce Mongrain '78

Christian Laver '79
John LeBold '79
James Thoburn '79

1980s

David Chittock '80*
Robert Cunningham '80
James Green '80^
Daniel Rothschild '80
In memory of Kelly Boe '81
James Botkin '81
William Greer '81*
Kurt Lenz '81
Kenneth Schilling '82
Mike Uthe '82
Mark Holcomb '83
Richard Puzzitiello Jr. '84
Richard Olt '85
Wesley Eilbert '86^
Mark Hayward '86
David Rohde '86
Richard Shawen '86
Todd Fink '88
Michael Dabbelt '89

1990s

Marty Ryan '91
Steven McGrath '97
Randy McMullin '98*

2000s

Brant Smith '02
R. Daniel Hannon '04*
Matthew Wilkinsky '04*
Vartan Davidian '06
Joseph Hornsby '06*
Kyle Pavlock '06
Jackson Sumpter '06
Paul Regopoulos '07
Paul Revelson '07
Doug Dakesian '08
Jake Levine '09
John Owed '09*

2010s

Owen Cook '12
Jacob Ohnmeis '13^
Richard Puzzitiello '14
Seldon Cook '15
SigEp Undergrads '17-'21*

Other

Dr. Stephen Large, *Ohio Upsilon* '02,
Chapter Counselor
Jonathan James, *Ohio Alpha* '08, AAC^

Golden Hearts

Jessica Allman
Barb Botkin
Linda Chittock
Deborah Collins
Edmonds
Mary Feeney
Janet Foerst
Rita Gore
Karen Nelson Gullett
Nicole Hornsby

Ann Stuart Kling
Shelly Kuenning
Susan LeBold
Shelly Rohde
Melissa Ryan
Margaret Schilling
Susan Siggelakis
Tona Wert
Alice Thompson
Sedgwick '59
Nancy Grandison
Hartung '66
Constance Stebbins Lynch '68
Barbara Rowe Chernus '70
Sherry Schmeidt
Schroeder '72
Nancy Niederhelman
Glasgow '73
Sharon Janosick
Mitchell '73
Paula Reinhard
Beeken '74
Kathryn Miles
McKenzie '74
Susan Moesta
Letson '75
Anne Scherz Durket '76
Karen Simon
Wendeln '76
Charlene Sheppard
Niederhelman '78
Jan Jennings
Cunningham '80
Lori Wrigley
Rothschild '80
Nancy Greer '81
Kelly Bishop Lenz '82
Mary Vendel
Holcomb '84
Lynelle Baker
Puzzitiello '84
Dawn Smith
Hayward '86
Erin Kender Smith '02
Michelle Montagna
Sumpter '07
Stephanie Buccini
Dakesian '08
Robyn Schiff
Revelson '08
Elizabeth Sams '12

Corporate Match

Northwestern Mutual
Life Foundation
Ohio Eta House
Corporation
Hyster-Yale Materials
Handling Inc.^
H3 Group LLC^

Donor Advised Fund

Fidelity Charitable Gift
Fund^

* Endowment Founder

^ First Time Donor

DOC GORDON LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT ENDOWMENT SUMMARY UPDATE

#MoveInMiami is a one-day fundraising effort in which alumni can support SigEp through our endowment within the Miami Foundation. Amidst the global pandemic, OH Eta alumni, parents, and friends have generously supported our endowment, contributing \$15,187 over July and August alone! This support helps grow the endowment principal, providing leadership opportunities focused on *Sound Mind, Sound Body* for OH Eta brothers for generations to come. **Thanks to all alumni for supporting the future of OH Eta through their generous giving!** Please consider making your 2020 calendar year contribution by December 31, 2020, if you haven't had the opportunity to date.

Being organized within the Miami University Foundation, alumni have utilized various giving options to maximize their generous gifts, including donating *appreciated stocks/securities, corporate matching programs, deferred bequests/estate planning, and donor advised funds*. Please see the giving card for additional contacts should any of these methods appeal to you.

Doc Gordon Leadership Development Endowment Account Summary

Beginning Value – July 1, 2019	54,776
Gifts to Endowment	10,710
Investment Earnings	562
Admin./Invest Fees	-64
Distribution to Expendable Acct.	-2,430
FY '20 Ending Value – June 30, 2020	63,554
FY '21 Gifts (as of September 10, 2020)	15,187
Expendable Balance Available	4,770
Outstanding Pledges	5,886
Deferred Bequest	50,000
Endowment Total at September 10, 2020	\$139,397



Sigma Phi Epsilon, Miami University
P.O. Box 442100
Lawrence, KS 66044-2100

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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OH ETA ALUMNI VOLUNTEERS

AVC President
Joe Hornsby '06

Ryan Dattilo '07
Paul Revelson '07

Housing Committee
Brant Smith '01 - Director
Dan McKenzie '74 - Director
Financial Ops.
Jake Guhy - SENH
Asset Manager

AAC/Leadership
Development Committee
Bill Greer '81 - Director
Dr. Stephen Large -
Chapter Counselor
Jim Clark '61
Cliff Anderson '80
Dave Chittock '80
Steve Lauenstein '80
Tim Stafford '80
Rich Clemmensen '81
Ross MacIver '81
Todd Simpson '86
Jonathan James '08
Nathan Miller '08
Tyler Havens '03

Endowment and
Reunions Committee
Mark Durket '76 - Director
Cary Dice '73 - AVC Secretary
Graham Mitchell '73

Additional AVC Trustees
Herb Glasgow '74
Frank Braun '81
Kyle Stadtmiller '06



Remit to:

Miami University Foundation
725 E. Chestnut St.
Oxford, OH 45056

Give online:

ForLoveandHonor.org/
SigmaPhiEpsilon.org/

For more information, contact:

Michael Kumler
Director of Development
513-529-1957
kumlerme@MiamiOH.edu

I want to support "Doc" Gordon SigEp Leadership Fund!

☐ With my gift to the "Doc" Gordon SigEp Leadership Fund in the amount of:

☐ \$1,000 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other: _____

Payment Options

☐ Check (Made payable to Miami University Foundation)

☐ Credit Card: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express ☐ Discover

Account#: _____ Exp. Date: _____ Signature: _____

☐ Bill my credit card monthly: \$ _____ per month, starting _____ (mo/yr).

Contact me about other giving options: ☐ Multi-Year Commitment ☐ Major Gift ☐ Securities ☐ Bequest

Name(s): _____ Grad Year(s): _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

MLSPE