

THE ETA NEWS

OHIO ETA CHAPTER • SIGMA PHI EPSILON
MIAMI UNIVERSITY • WINTER 2022



PUTTING THE PIECES TOGETHER



Alumni Support for Ohio Eta's Future on Campus



Neither alumni nor the chapter is happy about our current house situation.

As detailed in the letter the AVC sent to alumni in early 2022, the house was leased to Alpha Chi Rho because of chapter disciplinary problems:

Unfortunately, Ohio Eta is one of these fraternities that has been cited for a number of infractions in recent semesters, ultimately resulting in the chapter losing the second-year exemption and expelling most of the sophomore, junior, and senior brothers. The infractions that led to these consequences were numerous and included hazing allegations, physical assault, "underground" membership, alcohol abuse, and a pattern of increased property destruction.

Based on the Alpha Chi Rho lease, July 2024 is the first chance for the chapter to return to 224 E. Church Street; however, the second-year exemption (Miami policy allowing sophomores to live in fraternity houses instead of dorms) will not be available, at the earliest and if the chapter avoids any further infractions, until one year after Ohio Eta's probationary period ends December 2023. Given the timing of the probation period and because Miami housing leases are signed for a full school year (September to May), Ohio Eta cannot house any sophomores until the fall 2025 semester.

Given our current chapter size (~40) and the dynamics of the Oxford housing market, it does not appear feasible to return to the house with only upperclassmen. House capacity is 40 men, with 25-30 needed to produce positive cash flow to fund reserves. Reserves are needed for major repairs (roof, AC units, etc.) and to provide funds to pay the mortgage and other expenses if the house is unoccupied or occupied at a level that does not generate positive cash flow.

Weighing financial risk and the strong desire to see the SigEp letters hanging once again at 224 E. Church Street, the AVC is working with the chapter to plan a return to the house in the fall 2025 semester.

Both the AAC and the AVC are also working with the chapter to mitigate the difficulties of operating the chapter without a house. Recruiting and maintaining a strong brotherhood are the two primary challenges.

To that end, for the fall 2022 semester, a "student-centered community" was established in a Miami dorm for SigEp sophomores to live in a cluster of dorm rooms. The AVC is also working with the chapter to evaluate the possibility of having more upperclassmen living in a single off-campus facility.

In addition to the housing work led by the AVC, the AAC is working with the chapter to improve chapter operations. The focus areas include year-round recruiting, academics, the Balanced Man Program, and reinstating the Standards Board disciplinary process.

Rebuilding a chapter is never easy, particularly given the challenges with COVID and navigating the difficult housing environment in Oxford. The chapter and the AAC are working diligently to return Ohio Eta to a sustainable and successful future. Thanks to both groups who are devoting time and talent to the cause.

While nothing is guaranteed, I'm confident we will continue to build a vibrant chapter and will return to 224 E. Church Street in 2025. As always, let me know if you have any questions or suggestions.

Fraternally,
Bill Greer '81
AVC President
greerhouse@charter.net
(269) 420-2585

"Someone's sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago."

—Warren Buffett (paraphrasing a Greek proverb)

OHIO ETA AVC

Volunteer Your Time Today

President
Bill Greer '81

Secretary
Cary Dice '73

VP Finance
Jeff Christian '72

VP Development
Joe Hornsby '06

VP Alumni Relations
Mark Durket '76

Chapter Counselor
Steve Large, John Carroll University '02

Dave Dillehunt '73
Graham Mitchell '73
Dan McKenzie '74
Dr. Frank Braun '81
David Bolen '82
Brant Smith '02

The AVC is looking for help! If you are interested in joining and serving as our head of communications, please contact **Bill Greer '81** at greerhouse@charter.net. Key responsibilities include the annual newsletter and managing our Facebook page.

OHIO ETA ACTIVITY



JT McKibben (left) and Brett Scuras.

For philanthropy this November, we participated in the Movember fund raiser to support men's health. Next semester, we are planning a IFC lacrosse league and hoping to also sponsor a season ending tournament with admission fees with all proceeds going to a charity to be determined.

As we work to re-establish our operating infrastructure, we have a number of brothers in the process of completing the Sigma challenge (year one development process) and have identified nine steps for the Phi challenge (year two development process) to be completed spring semester.

IFC recruitment starts when we return to campus in January after the holidays. We have been busy identifying potential candidates with a goal of adding 20 new members. We will also be busy recruiting after IFC recruitment to see if we can add any additional new members before the term ends in May.



Brothers Nolan Weaver (left) and Hayden Weaver.

CHAPTER OFFICERS

Chapter President
Jake Schneider

VP of Programming
Jimmy Liosi

VP of Recruitment
John Huggins

Social Chairman
James Gerkin

VP of Finance
Jack Mohar

Communications Chairman
Keegan Hoover

Philanthropy Chairman
Matthew Wyant

Athletics Chairman
Hayden Weaver

VP of Member Development
Austin McGarvey

RLC Coordinator
Cade Gawley

Risk Chairman
Kyle Brege

DEI Chairman
Joey Strauss

2022 OHIO ETA ALUMNI WEEKEND

Reunions and House Updates

After a pause due to COVID, the annual Miami University Alumni Weekend resumed this year when Ohio Eta held its annual Alumni Weekend Dinner this past June. A short meeting was held and information was shared regarding the house and plans to move the chapter back in 2024 or 2025.

Held as always at Marcum Hotel and Conference Center on Friday evening, the turnout was better than expected, as COVID was still an ongoing concern. As usual, the **Class of 1957** made a good showing with five brothers making their 55th reunion: **Ed Dressel, David Lehman, Donald Lorenz, David Lynch, and Herbert Pence.**

The largest class turnout was the **Class of 1982** celebrating their 40th: **David Bolen, Dean Burnside, Scott Cowan, Richard Kleshinski, Mark Spraez, Wilson Storey, Jerome Teuschler, David "Buzzy" Zorich, and Michael Uthe.**

Other alumni brothers attending were **John Foley '65, Robert Hartung '65, Thomas Barmore '72, Cary Dice '73, Jim Carfagno '78, John Roberson '79, Dr. Frank Braun '81, Bill Greer '81, Kenneth Schilling '82, Sergei Galeano '83, John Hands '83, Daniel McBride '84, and Joe Hornsby '06.** Also in attendance was Ohio Eta Faculty Advisor Steve Large. Several alumni showed up and paid at the door.

Many thanks to VP Alumni Relations **Mark Durket '76** for handling all the arrangements. Unfortunately, Mark picked up COVID and couldn't attend.

Mark your calendars for next year's Alumni Weekend, which will be June 6-10, 2023. The Ohio Eta Alumni Dinner will take place on Friday, June 9. Contact Mark Durket at durketmj@gmail.com or (513) 793-3448 if you are planning to attend or need more information.



(Left) Alumni brothers form a pyramid at Alumni Weekend. Top row: Scott Cowan '83; Second row: Jerry Teuschler '82, John Hand '83; Third row: Mike Uthe '82, Chick Storey '82, Dean Burnside '82; Fourth row: Dan McBride '83, Ken Schilling '82, Dave Bolen '82, Buzzy Zorich '82; Director: Mark Spraez '82. (Right) Alumni Weekend was a great opportunity for brothers to reunite and share their SigEp bonds once again.



miamiohio.sigep.org

forloveandhonor.org/sigmaphiepsilon

Scorecard Program

TRACKING OHIO ETA PERFORMANCE

Working together, the AVC, AAC, and chapter developed key performance indicators (KPIs) to help track performance and inform annual goals. Some KPIs are for the chapter, some for the AVC, and some shared. KPIs are grouped into the following categories:

Recruitment (chapter)

Balanced Man Program (chapter)

Academics and Standards (chapter)

Chapter Leadership/Philanthropy (chapter)

Fiscal Health and Member Safety (chapter)

Housing (shared)

Alumni Support (AVC)



As an example, the recruitment section is copied below. This period reflects current manpower vs. one year ago:

Accountable	Category	Metric	This Period	Prior period	Change
Chapter	Recruitment	Manpower	41	16	+ 156%
		% recruited outside of IFC recruitment	32%		
		Balanced Man Scholarship dollars	\$0	\$1,000	
		Balanced Man Scholarship apps	0	1	

Kudos to the chapter for overcoming the challenge of recruiting without a house and pivoting to finding more new members outside the traditional spring semester IFC recruitment. Given the focus on recruiting outside of IFC recruitment, reinstating the Balanced Man Scholarship is one of the key chapter priorities for fall 2022.

As more data is tracked and added to the scorecard, the AVC will be sharing the entire document with alumni and chapter members via the Ohio Eta Facebook page.

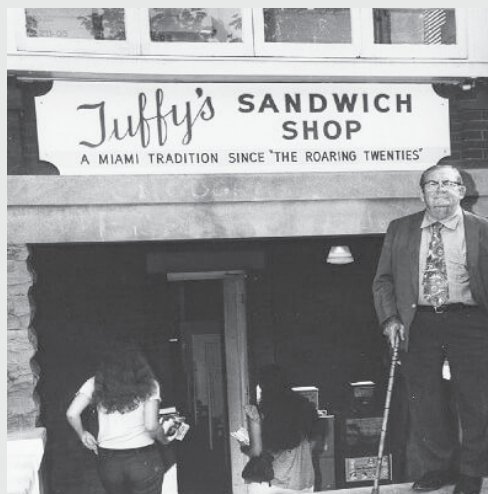
HONORING MYRON "TUFFY" POTTER

100 Years of Brotherly Love at Miami University

Have you ever wondered how traditions come about? Often, they're formed around warm memories that a group hopes to enjoy time and time again. At Miami University, the warmth of Tuffy's Toasted Roll carries a cherished tradition that students still enjoy on campus to this day.

In honor of the 100th anniversary of Sigma Phi Epsilon and fellow fraternities at Miami University, **Joe Hornsby '06** formed the idea of a monument honoring **Myron "Tuffy" Potter - 1924**, creator of the Toasted Roll. Tuffy's Sandwich Shop not only served as the spot for these beloved rolls—it was also the site of the 1972 founding of the Miami University Student Foundation.

Tuffy himself was a founding member of our brotherhood at Miami University in 1922, and he later decided to open his shop on campus



Myron "Tuffy" Potter '24 in front of his sandwich shop at Miami University.

in 1929 at the Tallawanda Apartments. Many Miami alumni would attest to Tuffy's Toasted Roll as one of their favorite campus traditions.

When Joe approached the MUSF about a monument concept to honor the organization's 50th anniversary, they were happy to collaborate and plan for a plaque at the site of Tuffy's Sandwich Shop.

Through **#MoveInMiami** fundraising efforts and the W.E. Smith Charitable Trust sponsorship opportunity, we have been able to move forward with the monument plans at a steady pace. Ohio Eta's current goal is to host an unveiling event during Miami University Alumni Weekend in June 2023, which we urge you to attend and celebrate the tradition of Tuffy's Toasted Rolls.

DOC GORDON LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

ENDOWMENT ACCOUNT SUMMARY

Beginning Value – July 1, 2021	\$114,372
Gifts to Endowment	\$14,226
Net Investment Earnings and Administration	-\$7,025
Distribution to Expendable Acct.	-\$4,409
FY '22 Ending Value – June 30, 2022	\$117,164
FY '23 Gifts (as of September 30, 2022)	\$8,662
Expendable Balance Available	\$12,685
Outstanding Pledges	\$3,250
Deferred Bequest	\$50,000
Endowment Total at October 15, 2022	\$191,761



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Miami University Alumni Weekend
June 6-10, 2023

More information to come.

As a reminder, we use a third party company to provide communication support to the Ohio Eta Chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon.

Pennington & Company is providing alumni communication support. Therefore, you will see the following return address on mailings. This allows Pennington & Company to update our alumni database. Pennington & Company is located in Lawrence, Kansas.

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

DOC GORDON LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT ENDOWMENT SUPPORT

#MoveInMiami is a one-day fundraising effort in which alumni can support SigEp through our endowment within the Miami Foundation. Amidst the global pandemic, Ohio Eta alumni, parents, and friends have generously supported our endowment, contributing \$52,364 throughout 2020-22! This support helps grow the endowment principal, providing leadership opportunities

focused on Sound Mind, Sound Body for Ohio Eta brothers for generations to come.

Thanks to all alumni for supporting the future of Ohio Eta through their generous giving!
Please consider making your 2022 calendar year contribution by December 31, 2022, 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.



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



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Remit to:

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

Give online:

ForLoveandHonor.org/
[SigmaPhiEpsilon](http://SigmaPhiEpsilon.org/)

For more information, contact:

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