

Sigma Phi Epsilon Newsletter

Guide:	Page:
President's Report	1
Chaplain's Corner	2
Philanthropy	3
Recruitment	4-6
BMS	6
Seniors	7
Fall Banquet 2012	8
Fun Events	9
Chapter Wish List	10

President's Report

Greetings!

This past year for Sigma Phi Epsilon WI-Theta was a huge stepping stone into becoming a truly great organization on campus. The executive board was the combination of some of the best leaders in the chapter, new and old. This fall semester was one of the best semesters for SigEp in a long time with an outstanding BMS and member development program. We welcomed 20 new brothers to our chapter and they all are showing great enthusiasm in getting involved. Also, we dominated Homecoming and won both Greek and Overall Homecoming 2012 awards!

Striving to be better leaders, scholars, athletes, and gentlemen is never ending with us and there is much work to be done to be truly the best. Our chapter has overcome many obstacles and challenges this past year, making us closer Brothers. The time for Wisconsin Theta is now, and I'm looking forward to see all the great achievements of the future. My time as Chapter President was an astounding experience and I want to thank the executive board and all my brothers for their hard work. I am very appreciative of all your support in my roll! Good luck to the new executive board and standards commission, I know you will all accomplish great things!

VDBL

-Nicholas J. Kirby



Chaplain's Corner

I tried to be more pro-active and influential to our brothers this year. Several changes have occurred; from an academics standpoint, last semester we ended up second amongst the fraternities. Deciding we could do better, the Standards Commission was revolutionized to take a more hands-on approach with the brothers who didn't make our 2.8 minimum GPA. David Nevins also had the brilliant idea to have \$35 off dues, sponsored by alumni for any brothers who achieve a 3.5 GPA or better. The chapter culture has been changing as well, and grades are a higher priority. With these modifications, I am confident academics will improve.

We also started the "Journey to the Truth" ceremony, which helps new brothers analyze VDBL. This ceremony follows a "Red Door Journey," when the new brothers visit alumni at their houses to get to know each other. We also started a Big Brother Ceremony. New members now start out with a Sigma Mentor. After getting to know the brothers more, they pick who they would like as their big brother, allowing for a better big-little relationship. This ceremony allows for a special bond between the two brothers and sets a certain level of expectation for the relationship. Finally, this past semester received our first Sweetheart. We now have two Sweethearts: Emily Sawle and Kayla Bradley. This has been a fantastic, extremely beneficial experience.

As for a couple other small things, I've also been working on a family tree for our chapter, and am only missing a small amount of information, which I could use some alumnus' help on! Chapter awards were handed out at banquet again, Leader going to Nicholas Kirby, Scholar to myself, Nathaniel Knautz, Athlete to Collin Thole, and Gentleman to Lucas VanEgtern. Finally, it is my pleasure to announce the date of Burning Heart 2013! Mark your calendars to return to Platteville on Friday, April 5, 2013! We plan on hosting the world's largest Burning Heart Ceremony once again on the Big M, making the heart 241 feet tall and 214 feet wide, with our letters 30 feet tall! That will coincide with our Parents and Alumni Appreciation Weekend. We highly encourage all to attend and enjoy the festivities with us.

In Phi,
Nathaniel Knautz



Past Executive Board

President:	Nicholas Kirby
Vice President of Programming:	Lucas VanEgtern
Vice President of Finance:	Kevin Roholt
Vice President of Member Development:	Cody Harris
Vice President of Recruitment:	Sean Kenefick
Vice President of Communications:	Collin Thole
Chaplain:	Nathaniel Knautz

Philanthropy

The fall 2012 semester offered numerous hours of philanthropy and community service for the brothers of the Wisconsin Theta chapter. We kicked started our philanthropic endeavors with a Balanced Man Scholarship Event with Sigma Alpha and Family Advocates of Platteville. This event consisted of playing kickball with the children and serving meal of walking tacos. All parties of the event had a great time playing and getting to know each other. Next, many brothers signed up to participate in the Crop Walk put on by the First English Lutheran Church of Platteville, but the event was cancelled due to rain. Another event that Sigma Phi Epsilon participated in this semester was the Grant County Family Fun Night. This event is open to the public for families to come and have a good time for no cost. Our booth consisted of making Thanksgiving themed hats and playing bag toss. Many other Greek chapters from the UW-Platteville campus also participated in this event. Our final big philanthropy event of the semester was a Christmas Party for Family Advocates of Platteville. This is the third year SigEp has put on this event with the Zeta Beta Chi Sorority. The night consisted of a meal, decorating cookies, opening gifts and ending with a small dance. To raise money to fund this event, SigEp and ZBX held a bake sale on campus. Clients of Family Advocates enjoyed the night, and each year they look forward to this event. There were a few other community service opportunities that some brothers participated in throughout the semester including digging holes at Southwest Tech for a Disc Golf course, handing out candy on Main Street for a Halloween program, and other various activities. Sigma Phi Epsilon looks forward to the spring semester of philanthropy with Relay for Life and Walk-MS.



Written by:
Lucas VanEgtern

SigEp and Sigma Alpha at the Family
Advocates Kickball Event



Finishing off the punch



Recruitment and New Members

This past semester's recruitment went exceptionally well. We welcomed 20 new members and have already enjoyed numerous bonding experiences with them. This semester's new brothers are a great group of brothers with a lot of passion; of the new members, we welcomed actual brother, Logan Thole, of current brother Collin Thole, and Carter Casidy, who is a "legacy," meaning he is the son of a brother from another chapter. We look forward to another great semester of recruitment for Spring 2013.



Name: Ryan Sollberger

Hometown: Peoria, IL

Major: Mechanical Engineering

Interesting Fact: Can make the Predator clicking noise

Why Joined SigEp: Felt comfortable around everyone and knew SigEp would give the tools and opportunities to succeed



Name: Garrett Dawkins

Hometown: Cedarburg, WI

Major: Mechanical Engineering

Interesting Fact:

Why Joined SigEp:



Name: Kenneth Ackman

Hometown: Viroqua, WI

Major: Electrical Engineering

Interesting Fact: Ran Cross-Country and Track in High School

Why Joined SigEp: Joined because of all the great people in SigEp and I believe in the things that SigEp stands for



Name: Michael Sivill

Hometown: Lacrosse, WI

Major: Electrical Engineering

Interesting Fact: Spent a summer working in Durango, CO

Why Joined SigEp: I never had a brother growing up.



Name: Nathaniel Nygaard

Hometown: Plymouth, WI

Major: Civil Engineering

Interesting Fact: I am an Eagle Scout

Why Joined SigEp: I joined SigEp to further develop my leadership skills and become a better role model for others



Name: Tim Cornelisen

Hometown: Lakeville, MN

Major: Forensic Science/ Criminalistics w/DNA emphasis

Interesting Fact: I can sing to any song I hear on the radio as if I've heard it many times before

Why Joined SigEp: I wanted to find a group of friends who saw their qualities and principles within me

New Members (Continued)



Name: Samuel Kimpan
Hometown: Hinckley, IL
Major: Electrical Engineering
Interesting Fact: Worked the last 4 summers as a corn pollinator a.k.a. a corn matchmaker
Why Joined SigEp: Because of all the great members and I felt it was a great origination to get involved with



Name: Daniel Francis Shircel
Hometown: Sheboygan, WI
Major: Environmental Engineering
Interesting Fact: I have an abnormally hairy left knee
Why Joined SigEp: I was interested because of the BMS and liked our cardinal principles



Name: Alexander C. Wynveen
Hometown: Oostburg, Wisconsin
Major: Mechanical Engineering
Interesting Fact: Director of Communications and Organization for ZO3 Robotics Inc. which took first in the 2012 MATE ROV International Robotics Competition
Why Joined SigEp: The main reason is that it would help me get involved around campus and in the community



Name: Jason Bednarski
Hometown: Madison, WI
Major: Mechanical Engineering
Interesting Fact: I want to run a 50-mile Ultra marathon
Why Joined SigEp: I joined SigEp because of the Ideals



Name: Zachary Bostic
Hometown: Moline, IL
Major: Mechanical Engineering
Interesting Fact: I've had 2 major surgeries on my hip, and I have a plate in my leg now
Why Joined SigEp: I wanted to be part of something bigger than myself



Name: Ryan Schauff
Hometown: Lancaster, WI
Major: Accounting
Interesting Fact: Went to state in golf senior and junior year
Why Joined SigEp: Liked the brotherhood and wanted to get involved



Name: Blake M Alley
Hometown: Silvis, IL
Major: CJ emphasis in Forensic Investigation
Interesting Fact: I am the fastest man in SigEp (100m sand dash)
Why Joined SigEp: Always wanted to be in Greek life and SigEp opened that door for me



Name: Kody Brand
Hometown: Waterford, WI
Major: Computer Science
Interesting Fact: I like being on water and snowmobiling
Why Joined SigEp: Meeting new people and the Balanced Man Program



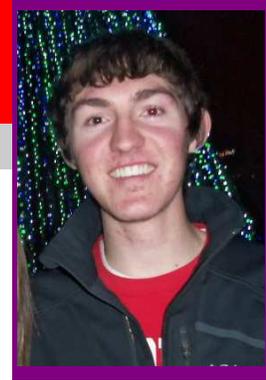
Name: Carter Casidy
Hometown: Green Bay, WI
Major: Civil Engineering
Interesting Fact: I love running Hurdles
Why Joined SigEp: I joined SigEp because I like what they stand for and I believe I can become a better person while gaining great friends



Name: Kyle Cannon
Hometown: Oshkosh, WI
Major: Civil Engineering
Interesting Fact: Junior year of high school I was an all conference offensive tackle and was ranked as the top senior to keep an eye-on
Why Joined SigEp: I enjoyed hanging out with the people in SigEp and I really like what SigEp stands for



Name: Joshua Meyer
Hometown: Racine, WI
Major: International Studies
Interesting Fact: Have been involved in 7 theater shows and plan to continue this at Platteville
Why Joined SigEp: Really liked the values that SigEp has and wanted to become a balanced man



Name: Logan Thole
Hometown: Lancaster, WI
Major: Elementary Education
Interesting Fact: I can make a chicken out of a towel
Why Joined SigEp: To meet new people and get involved on campus

Balanced Man Scholarship

This year we conducted over 110 home interviews, more than any previous year. A packet was given to each applicant containing information about SigEp, all the events, and Move-In Day so each semi-finalist was sure to have all the resources he would need. This allowed each semi-finalist to see who we are and why we do what we do.

The BMS Events were restructured to focus on the Balanced Man Ideal. Leader was a day at Southwest Tech at their newly-built Public Safety Complex where participants had the opportunity to learn gun safety and enjoyed a day at the firing range, where they were able to practice shooting 9mm handguns, AR-15 rifles, and 12-gauge shotguns. A session on self-defense techniques was also facilitated, where brothers and semi-finalists learned how to protect themselves against a variety of different attack techniques. Scholar was a scavenger hunt of Platteville where participants drove around town and took pictures of all the clues on their list, followed by pizza and yard games. Athlete was kickball outside the Markee Pioneer Student Center with the ladies of Sigma Alpha and the kids from Family Advocates, complete with grilled food and walking tacos. Gentleman was a fun-filled day that started with a session with Deb Putnam on "How to Meet and Talk to Girls" and continued with grilling out and SigEp Olympics at Governor Dodge. Sound Mind, Sound Body was an evening bowling at Pioneer Lanes, one game being "high score" and "low score" win, and another game for fun. Semi-finalists were required to come to at least 3 of the 5 events to be considered for the scholarship.

The BMS Banquet was held in the Nohr Art Gallery on campus on Saturday, September 29. Chancellor Dennis Shields stopped by the SigEp house before the banquet during the social hour to thank us for everything we do. Professor Chris Schullenburg, Chapter Counselor Nick Wagner, and Renaissance Brother David Nevins spoke at the banquet. At the banquet, we awarded 11 scholarships totaling \$3,300. Sixteen of our 20 new members were BMS Semi-Finalists. Overall this year's BMS was a huge success, and we are looking into starting a BMS in the spring for continuing students who made the Dean's list.

Written by:
 Nathaniel Knautz



Senior Biography



Kenneth Gellerstedt

Degree:

Business Administration with an emphasis in Marketing and Sales Communication.

Future plans:

My future plans are to get married to Rachel Enstrom this coming summer of 2013. Also, I plan on finding a job and staying in the Platteville area.

Favorite SigEp memory:

My favorite SigEp memory is playing a game of "butterball" with Chris Sykes in the "Old SigEp" house.

Banquet Fall 2012

The fall 2012 undergraduate banquet was held at the Wintergreen Resort in Wisconsin Dells, WI. It was an elegant night filled with fun, reflection, and great food. Many brothers stayed the night at the hotel, and utilized the opportunity to bond with brothers. At the banquet, we honored the recently late Alan Sulzer.

The spring 2013 banquet date is set. Save the date of April 6, 2013 for alumni/parent banquet. At this banquet there will be a silent auction for the Balanced Man Scholarship. The venue of the banquet has not yet been set, but more information will follow in regards to this banquet.



Written by:
Lucas VanEgtern

New Executive Board

President:	Lucas VanEgtern
Vice President of Programming:	Ryan Schauff
Vice President of Finance:	Michael Sivill
Vice President of Member Development:	Nathaniel Knautz
Vice President of Recruitment:	Ryan Sollberger
Vice President of Communications:	Collin Thole
Chaplain:	Jason Foster

Fun Events

This has been an exciting year for fun and educational events in SigEp. We were able to put on a Dating 101 session with seven girls from some of our classes, where we were able to get some questions answered that have always boggled the male mind. We also had a Cigar 101 session where we learned the etiquette of smoking cigars and where they all come from. The engagement ring session was hosted by Helker Jewelers, which taught us what to look for in an engagement ring to give to that special person in our life. The gem of the all of the events would have to be the trip we just took to the Kalahari Water and Theme Park in Wisconsin Dells. We were able to have an enjoyable experience playing laser tag and trying to beat each other in mini golf and go-karts. I am very excited to see what is going to be planned for next semester!

Written by:
Cody Harris



Chapter Wish List

- High-speed router with network capabilities
- Large external hard drive to connect with network router
- Network capable printer
- Resource books
- Blu-ray player
- Pots & pans/cooking utensils, etc.
- 8' white, plastic folding table
- 24+ folding chairs
- New, old float car
- Basketball, football, etc.