

# THE RED DOOR

The Official Newsletter of Sigma Phi  
Epsilon's Indiana Zeta Chapter

## BALANCED MEN

### A Look Back at Late 2021

Neither November nor December saw Indiana Zeta slow down. Rather, the chapter pushed through to the end of the year at full throttle, hosting a Founder's Day and BMS banquets, Burning Heart, Supper Clubs, and a series of Recruitment Events, Unity Events, and Brotherhood Events. Because only one Recruitment Event was allowed in January, the men had to be diligent in meeting potential new members and raising our campus recognition among freshmen. While we were busy trying to meet new people, we also managed to finish the year by giving to Hilltop, playing in the IM Basketball Championship, electing a new EBoard, and having the highest fraternity GPA on campus.

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## WORDS FROM A NEW MEMBER

The following conversation was between an anonymous new brother sharing his experience with a friend considering SigEp. [edited from text messages for punctuation]

**The Question:** “Looking back at last semester, how has SigEp been a part of your college experience?”

**The Answer:** “Hmm. Good question. SigEp has been a very meaningful part of my college experience. I had one friend, you, at school and that was it. About 2 weeks into the semester, I received a bid to join SigEp, and I immediately became friends with 40 more people. I was accustomed to eating breakfast or dinner alone. After joining SigEp, I had to get used to brothers coming and sitting with me, because ‘we apparently don’t eat alone in SigEp’. Haha. I’ve been able to share my faith and life experiences, and I have become more disciplined in many areas.”

“They look at me as an equal, even though I’m a 22 year old sophomore and have been in the fraternity for only 1 semester. I felt loved by them the moment I accepted my bid and even before joining. Learning about all my brothers is taking a lot of time, but it is well worth it. There has never been a moment I couldn’t reach out to them for help or a simple conversation. My college experience is defined by my choices, and I am truly happy that I chose to write SigEp into that definition.”

**The Editors:**

“We’re glad you did too, anonymous 22 year old sophomore.”

*Edited by Evan Stock and Matthew Yee*

## Bald Brother: St. Baldrick's

### Joe Castleman

On November 7th, I, along with brothers Kyle Langreck and Jack Larson shaved my head for the St. Baldrick's philanthropy, put on every year by Lambda Chi Alpha. St. Baldrick's is a charity that raises money for children's cancer research. Valpo's new president, José Padilla, also participated. Personally, I really love how he is trying to be so involved with student events. The total event raised \$17,310! I feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to participate in this event. This was my first time shaving my head, but Jack and Kyle had both shaved their heads before. Kyle has done St. Baldrick's twice now. He does it because "it's fun to come together as a community for a good cause." I agree; the event was really fun and there were more people than I expected. Normally, there are cancer patient kids who come as well, but because they are at high-risk with COVID-19, they did not attend in person. We still saw a video of them talking about their lives and experiences, and I think it really grounded all of us in why we were shaving our heads and raising money. Ultimately, it is a fun event, but it's for an even better cause.

One month out, my hair has grown back to about buzz cut length. I am not sure yet if I will do it again (let's let the hair grow back a bit before I think about that...), but I think it is a pretty special experience that I would encourage everyone to consider at least once in their lifetime.

Below. Brother Jack Larson really likes Joe's new haircut.



## Founder's Day – Nov. 1

### Dawson Penshorn

On Founder's Day 2021, the men of the Epsilon challenge raised to life a tradition that had been previously lost to time: hosting a reception for faculty and mentors of the chapter. Over 20 brothers were participating in the Epsilon challenge, the longest and most independent part of SigEp's member development programming, and each one is expected to find a community or university mentor while in the challenge. This event on Monday, Nov. 1st was a small way in which SigEp could honor the many leaders in Valpo's community and thank them for the ways they contribute to the lives of the men of IN Zeta. Each brother invited their mentor to this celebration. Past President Kyle Langreck and Renaissance brother Professor John Ruff gave remarks and Indiana Zeta celebrated SigEp's 120th birthday in true SigEp form: looking to past leaders with thankfulness, admiration, and inspiration while looking to the future with optimism and appreciation for the Golden Heart and all it means to SigEps everywhere.

As Epsilon coordinator, I loved walking my brothers through this process of inviting mentors as well as seeing those mentors come to an understanding of what SigEp is, what it stands for, and how their contributions in the classroom and community are shaping undergraduate men in impactful ways. As a group of Epsilons, we decided this is a tradition we want to continue every Founder's Day, and we are already excited for the ways we get to thank and honor those who act as mentors, guides, and friends to us for years to come.



Brothers and mentors at the banquet.

## Executive Board Spotlights

### Evan Stock, Executive Secretary

With a new calendar year comes a new Executive Board for Indiana Zeta. Once again, eight men were chosen to lead our chapter, from a variety of years, majors, and places.

Chapter President David Fowler is a junior business major from Valparaiso, Indiana.

VP of Programming Tanner Grashorn is a junior electrical engineering major from Belvidere, Illinois.

VP of Finance Aiden Goodreau is a second year PA student from Sussex, Wisconsin.

VP of Member Development Ethan Decatur is a sophomore criminology major from Shrewsbury, Massachusetts.

VP of Recruitment Jack Hertzberg is a sophomore geography major from Fayetteville, Arkansas. Yes, people live there!

VP of Communications Noah Godsell is a sophomore digital media major, this time from a decent state - Pewaukee, Wisconsin.

Chaplain Matt Morateck is another junior electrical engineering student from Brookfield, Wisconsin.

VP of the SigEp Learning Community is James Sroge, a junior history and secondary education double major from Munster, Indiana.



David Fowler and Tanner Grashorn



Aiden Goodreau and Ethan Decatur



Jack Hertzberg and Noah Godsell



Matt Morateck and James Sroge

## CHAPTER EVENTS: NOV/DEC

- 1 Founder's Day**
- 5-6 BMS Retreat**
- 12 Burning Heart**
- 14 SigEp "Banana Bananza"**
- 14 Eboard Elections**
- 18 Chapter Thanksgiving Dinner**
- 20 Begin Thanksgiving Break**
- 3 Brotherhood Event:  
Lock-In**
- 4 BMS Banquet**
- 15 SigEp Christmas**
- 17 Begin Winter Break**

## SigEp Christmas

### Tanner Grashorn, VP Programming

Hilltop Neighborhood House holds a special place in the hearts of the brothers of Sigma Phi Epsilon. The daycare is located right down the street from our chapter facility where we volunteer often. Through fundraising events such as SigEp Splash, car washes, donations from businesses, and many others, we raise money to support the kids who attend Hilltop. The donations allow us to buy Christmas gifts for the kids. After we purchase the gifts, we wrap them and deliver them to the kids in person during what we call SigEp Christmas. We were glad that we could deliver the gifts in person again this year. 10 of our brothers handed out the gifts to the children before leaving for break. Brother David Fowler dressed as Santa Claus and brother Jack Hertzberg and myself dressed as Santa's elves. We then drove over to the anxious children at Hilltop in my car with the windows down, David (Santa) in the sunroof, and Christmas music playing. The kids were overjoyed when we arrived and after the gifts were handed out, they unwrapped them in front of us. The smiles we saw gave us great joy. The children were thrilled to see what Santa and the SigEp brothers had brought for them. Afterwards, we sang a few Christmas carols with the kids and went on our way. Thank you to everyone who donated and allowed us to have an amazing SigEp Christmas! We look forward to the coming year and the next SigEp Christmas!

## HIGHLIGHTS



Top left. We enjoyed Kabobs with KD in November!  
Top right. Daniel Asselstine captured this image of Burning Heart using a drone.  
Bottom left. Brothers made several dishes to share at a potluck before Thanksgiving.  
Bottom center. Brothers giving Christmas gifts to the children at Hilltop.  
Bottom right. We're very proud of our new pool table and cue balls. Thank you AVC!

## MORE BROTHERS

Following a successful Winter Bid Turn-in in January, Indiana Zeta is stoked to announce the addition of more brothers to the chapter. Stay tuned to our social media pages and future newsletters for more information on them!

## Letter from the Editor

### Matthew Yee, External Relations Chair

Happy New Year! My name is Matthew Yee and I am a junior from Northern California studying music and civil engineering. I am excited to begin this new role as the External Relations Chair, sharing monthly highlights and new developments in the chapter with all of you! Due to holiday school recesses and leadership team transitions, this issue covers chapter activities for November and December. The normal monthly newsletter will begin again with the January 2022 issue which will include coverage of our newest recruitment class! Special thanks to Evan Stock for all his work on newsletters and for his guidance as I grow into this new role. Comments or feedback are always welcome. We appreciate hearing from you!

# SigEp

## IN ZETA SLC

You can unsubscribe to some or all communications by the Sigma Phi Epsilon Indiana Zeta chapter. However, SigEp needs to communicate with you periodically about our chapter or events that may happen in your area, so we encourage you to allow general Fraternity communication through email. SigEp makes every effort to minimize the number of emails you receive. To update your contact and/or communication, preferences email us at [sigep.externalrelations@valpo.edu](mailto:sigep.externalrelations@valpo.edu).

## MEET OUR CHAPTER

### Chapter President - David Fowler

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