

# THE RED DOOR

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

## BALANCED MEN

### New Year, New Semester

Spring semester of the 2021-2022 school year has begun and the chapter is glad to be back together at 705 Mound. The formal recruitment period started immediately upon our return. Brothers marched across campus handing out bids in the evening after the first day of classes! We were very excited to welcome ten outstanding new members into our chapter on bid turn-in night. Since then, the chapter has stayed busy by staying focused on recruitment efforts, participating in TEDxValparaiso University, initiating a new Renaissance Brother, and spending quality time with each other.

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## NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

On a frigid January evening, I walked into Mueller with nervous excitement, unsure of what the upcoming hours would look like. As I sat in a classroom, I wondered: “Am I making the right decision?” Then, I stood up and walked across the room to turn in my bid. It was one of the most exciting and momentous decisions of my life, but I quieted my doubts and kept walking. Eventually, after turning in my bid, I walked down a staircase, where I could hear loud noises and music coursing up through the hallway. As I neared the door where the music was playing from, I took a deep breath and rushed into the room. There, I found myself surrounded not by scary figures, but by my soon-to-be brothers. And just like that, the fear within me was gone; I was home.



My experience with SigEp so far has been one of the most incredible experiences of my life. It's not merely the activities or status of joining a fraternity which have made this period so special: it's the brotherhood. Although it may seem stereotypical to say, the atmosphere of SigEp is truly different. Whether you need help with homework, a ride to an event, or simply someone to talk to about the stresses of life, each and every brother in SigEp will take time out of their day to sit down and talk with you. Indeed, despite not knowing many people before joining, within a week I had spoken to nearly every member of the fraternity, whether it was just a simple greeting or a conversation about my passions. This deep-seated care and interest for one another is what differentiates SigEp. Even from my very first day with SigEp, I could tell that every member wanted the best for those standing beside them. Thus, it is this quality, this brotherly love, that makes this fraternity and brotherhood so special to me.

- Matt Van Valin (Class of '25)

## Applebee's Trivia Nights

### Jack Hertzberg, VP Recruitment

For what has been a long journey, some of our best and brightest can proudly say that they won Thursday night trivia at Applebee's for the SigEp name. On January 20, 2022, Tanner Grashorn and I, among others, took home the victory for the first time at this weekly tradition for SigEp's team: The Banana City Ballers. Some questions included the last female leader of Russia and the year that the patent for the first corkscrew was issued. This win ended an over-a-year long streak of narrowly losing - usually getting 2nd or 3rd. It was met with disdain from the crowd as the regular winners, the Dirt Farmers, shouted across the restaurant that we were 'cheating'.

Such comments are not unusual from our cross-dining room rivals including the infamous R2 Bleep You. However, the Ballers rose above the hate with the help of some all-star freshmen to hold the coveted NWI Team Trivia trophy. SigEps continue to go to Applebee's every Thursday as a fun tradition of friendly competition and half-priced appetizers, but now with a victory under our belts.

Below. The Banana City Ballers stand proudly with the 1st place trophy.



# TEDxValparaiso University

## David-Paul Schulze

TEDxValparaisoUniversity took place this past month on January 21st, 2022. It was the 7th TEDx event to take place at Valpo and hosted a diverse array of nine speakers and two interactive breakout sessions. The theme for the event was “Launch” which symbolized several different concepts for different speakers. Some speakers used the theme to talk about a new way to take risks. Other speakers used it to talk about how the pandemic has launched our society into a new era while another speaker talked about how he used portraits of people in different communities to launch change and recognition throughout the country. The event lasted for about three and a half hours and offered a three course meal. The event also featured a party afterwards where the audience could meet the speakers and celebrate with confetti poppers.

This year, the executive board had 6 seniors on it which consisted of 5 SigEps from Indiana Zeta! I served as Overall Director, Dawson Penshorn served as Director of Event Experience, Kyle Langreck served as Director of Logistics, Jack Meyer served as Director of Finance, and Jeremy Landgrebe served as the Director of Marketing. There were several other SigEps who worked on committees and attended the event! TEDxValparaisoUniversity is one of the prides of Valparaiso University and SigEp Indiana Zeta was happy to be leaders and participate in the event.

Pictured below: TEDEx executive board (front row) and committee members (back row). In total, 9 brothers were involved in organizing the event.





## New Leadership Team

Soon after the election of our new Executive Board, a leadership team was selected to support the executive board officers.

### Member Development Cabinet:

Internal Relations: Kyle Langreck  
Intramurals Chair: Caleb Engelmann  
DEI Chair: Fred Yaniga  
Mental Health Coordinator: Joe Castleman

### Events Cabinet:

External Relations: Matthew Yee  
Community Service Chair: Andrew Messerschmidt  
Philanthropy Chair: Spencer Lehmann  
Social Chair: Aaron Spaletto  
Public Relations: Daniel Asselstine

### Recruitment Cabinet:

BMS Chair: Joe Castleman

### Standards and Operations Cabinet

House Manager: Oliver Vinovskis  
IFC Delegate: David-Paul Schulze  
Executive Secretary: Evan Stock



Kyle Langreck and Caleb Engelmann



Fred Yaniga and Joe Castleman



Matthew Yee and Andrew Messerschmidt



Spencer Lehmann and Aaron Spaletto



Daniel Asselstine and Oliver Vinovskis



Evan Stock and David-Paul Schulze

## CHAPTER EVENTS: JANUARY

- 5 Recruitment Event:**  
Parent Panel
- 12 Start of Spring Semester**
- 12 Bid Handout**
- 13 Recruitment Workshop**  
Led by Regional Director
- 15 Preference Dinner**
- 16 Bid Signing and Initiation**
- 20 Recruitment Event:**  
Applebee's Trivia Night
- 21 TEDxValparaiso University**
- 24 Brotherhood Event:**  
Snow Football

## A New Renaissance Brother

For my brother (John Penshorn '18) and I, SigEp has been an important and influential part of our college careers. Calling home to our family in Minnesota, SigEp has been a point of frequent conversation with our parents as we told stories of our bigs and littles, positions in the fraternity, parties, and the many memories we had with our brothers. But when my dad first heard of SigEp in Fall 2014, he was very nervous for my brother to join, fearing that a fraternity could be a deeply damaging and negative experience to his son. However, over the last 8 years, my parents have grown to become big supporters of Sigma Phi Epsilon and the Indiana Zeta chapter at Valparaiso University. Valpo has been an important part of our family's life, and while no more Penshorns will be on-campus (at least for the next few years), my dad has gained a special appreciation and connection to Valparaiso and SigEp. It was incredibly exciting when Indiana Zeta made the choice to offer my dad a Renaissance Bid and initiated him into the fraternity in late January 2022, the first Renaissance bid extended by the chapter since COVID-19 began. He has reached for excellence in his career, family life, will represent our fraternity exceptionally well, and is very excited to get more involved with our brotherhood locally and nationally. I am amazed by all the ways that this fraternity brings together friends, family, and communities. My brother, dad, and I could not be more proud to be SigEps!

WEEPS and Love,  
Dawson Penshorn

## HIGHLIGHTS



Top left. We were grateful to plan an in-person Preference Dinner again this year!  
 Top right. New members pose for a group shot (Jacob Felix not pictured).  
 Bottom left. From left to right: Dawson, John (father), and John ('18) Penshorn after Renaissance initiation.  
 Bottom right. Soren Burkholder breaks free during a snow football brotherhood event.

## SNOW DAYS!

After a surprisingly warm November and December last semester, winter has finally settled in here at Valpo. An enormous winter storm system passed through Valpo in early February prompting two consecutive snow days where all classes were canceled (that means no Zoom classes either). Be on the lookout in the next newsletter to see how brothers spent their days off!

## Letter from the Editor

### Matthew Yee, External Relations Chair

Now that classes are in full swing and formal recruitment is over, brothers have started to find their weekly routines. After a half month of school in January, chapter activities have really started to pick up again in February. Even though formal recruitment just ended, we have already planned various recruitment events in the next month in order to maintain close contact with our current potential new members. And while we enjoy holding events with other organizations on campus, many brothers are excited for more brotherhood events where the chapter can simply be together. Thank you for reading and we look forward to 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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### VP of Programming - Tanner Grashorn

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### VP of Recruitment - Jack Hertzberg

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### Chaplain - Matt Morateck

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### VP of SigEp Learning Community - James Sroge

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