



**The**

**RED**

**DOOR**

**The Official Newsletter of  
Sigma Phi Epsilon – Indiana Zeta**



# BALANCED MEN

## 2022 Winter Edition!

It was a race to the finish after everyone came back to campus after Thanksgiving Break. Christmas concerts, essays, a tree lighting, presentations, parties, projects, Secret Santa’s, and of course, final exams. We officially transitioned our new executive board officers before the semester ended. Be on the lookout for their introductions soon! We hope that everyone can spend quality time together with family over the break. From the brothers here at Indiana Zeta, we hope everyone stays safe and has a wonderful holiday season!



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# NEW MEMBER EXPERIENCE

## Micah D'Arcangelo

Before I joined SigEp, I was skeptical. The bad rep fraternities receive in the news, the idea of paying for friends, and the disapproval from people who had known me my entire life were all factors discouraging me from joining. But 10 weeks into my SigEp experience, I am loving every minute of it. "This fraternity will be different." The oft quoted words from our founders still ring true to this day. As someone who already had a chock-full schedule, I worried that SigEp might become another chore on my already overflowing plate. But I soon found that to be anything but the truth. Through SigEp, I have had a chance to have fun and to relax while also developing myself as a person. Let me explain what I mean. While I haven't attended every event since initiation, I have come to everything I could. These events, from homecoming, to team two basketball games (we'll get 'em next year), to SigEp Splash, to the floor hockey and pool recruitment event, have taught me to socialize in a different way. Whether its bantering with brothers on the court, or discussing religion over pizza, everyone

has a unique and refreshing position to offer. These experiences are fun. Not a surface-level fun that will fade in an hour or two, but a lasting level of fun. These are memories I know I will retain my whole life. Being around brothers also helps me to relax. I don't get much time to just enjoy myself, so when I do, I want it to count. When I spend time with brothers, I can just let go without seeing it as wasted time later. These brothers I'm spending time with are people I see as role models. Every conversation I have, every interaction I share, contains a morsel of truth for me to hold onto and savor. The community I have found in SigEp surpasses any which I had previously found in college. In only 10 weeks, I have built strong friendships with people I would never have met otherwise, bonds I know I will continue to develop over the next one and a half years. My only regret? Not joining sooner. I love this fraternity!



Picture: Micah (left) with his big, Matthew (right)



# BMS SCHOLARSHIP

## Joe Castleman

This past semester I had the privilege of serving as our chapter's Balanced Man Scholarship Chairman. For those who do not know, the Balanced Man Scholarship (BMS) is a scholarship process for freshman and transfer men at VU. There are two rounds of interviews which are conducted by the current brothers in the chapter. There are also several events, such as a Faculty/Professor, "Get More out of College" panel and the "Skills Men Should Know" event where we teach participants how to tie a tie, give a firm handshake, and change a tire.

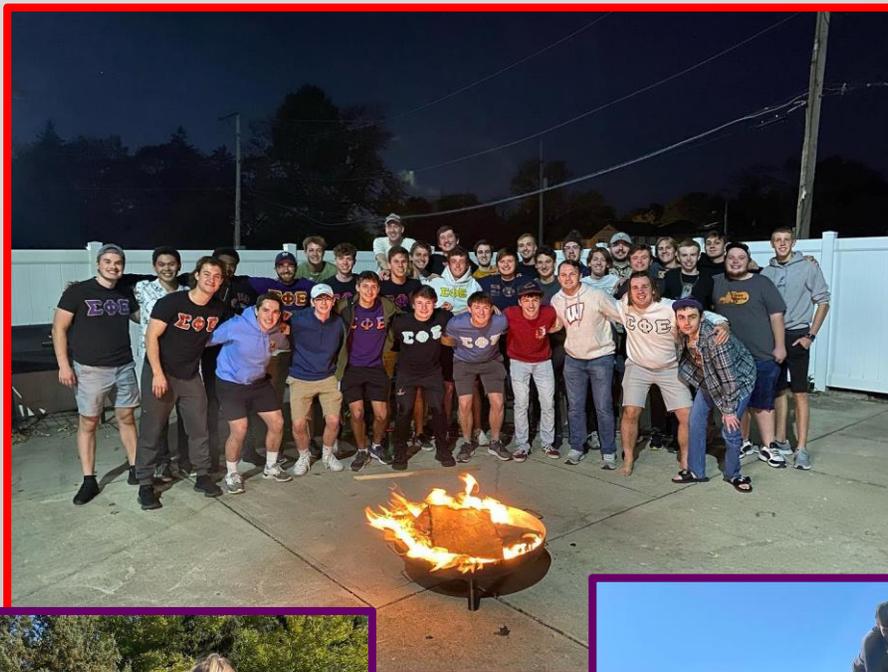
Additionally, there is a BMS retreat featuring some team bonding exercises at a low ropes course. Finally, the scholarship is concluded with a BMS banquet where we divided \$3000 amongst the top finalists. This year we held the banquet at Sand Creek Country Club and were able to invite some AVC members, campus advisors, and the parents of the finalists. It truly was a special event. We had over 40 men apply for the scholarship in August and eventually narrowed it down to 21 finalists over the course of the semester. All the finalists really stood out

Pictures:

Top – BMS retreat

Left Bottom –  
Balance beam  
challenge at low  
ropes course

Right Bottom –  
Brothers  
completing the big  
wall challenge



# BMS SCHOLARSHIP

## Joe Castleman

to us, and we awarded money to the top ten. Additionally, thanks to the generosity of Dr. Carrie Whittier, all the finalists also went home with a book on how to use their leadership skills. Honestly, leading this whole process was a larger undertaking than I had anticipated, and I certainly must give a shout out to the helpful members of my team: Allen Marvel and Ryan Cummings. This was a good leadership experience for me, and I am glad to have gotten the opportunity to play an important role in our recruitment process this year!



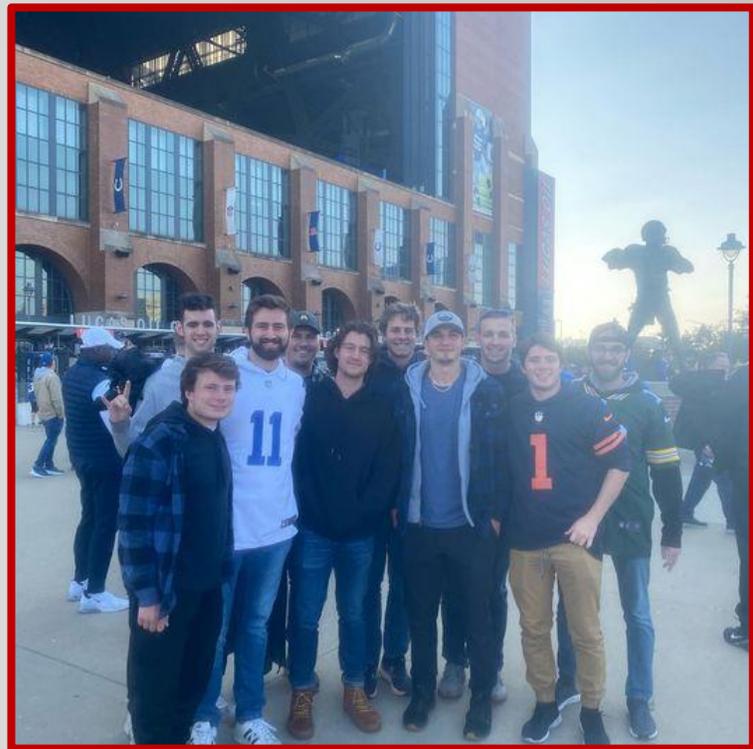
Picture: Final BMS Banquet at Sand Creek Country Club

# INDIANAPOLIS COLTS GAME

## Joey Gentile

On October 16th, a group of brothers took a trip down to Indianapolis to attend a Colts game together. We began the day by waking up ripe and early at 5:30 AM so we could travel together. Once we made it to Indianapolis, we got a chance to eat lunch with two alumni brothers before walking over to the area surrounding Lucas Oil stadium to listen to music and get excited for the game with other fans. At the game, we got to watch a very exciting back and forth game. With 2:44 left in the Jaguars took the lead away from the Colts. The crowd's energy died, and it seemed like the game was over. The Colts then came out and made a drive down the field. With every pass the crowd and our brothers got louder. Then with 17 seconds left, they scored a touchdown to win the game. All the brothers got to celebrate an awesome game with thousands of fans.

Pictured from left to right: Soren Burkholder, Joey Gentile, James Sroge, David Fowler, Noah Houseworth, Joe Castleman, Spencer Lehmann, Allen Marvel, Tanner Grashorn, Matt Morateck





# SIGEP CHRISTMAS - HILLTOP

## Matthew Yee

In the week before finals, our chapter held the annual SigEp Christmas event for the children at Hilltop Neighborhood House. We collected toy donations over the course of a few weeks, and brothers wrapped them the night before the event. Jack Larson volunteered to be Santa Claus while Tanner Grashorn and Sam Booth dressed up as Santa's elves. A group of brothers helped Santa carry his big bag of presents over to the childcare center. The children were so excited to see Santa, and they asked him a lot of questions including, "Santa, how can you get to all the houses in one night?" and "What is your favorite kind of cookie?" Santa then had each child come up and open a present with him! There were so many presents that everyone was able to open multiple! Once the presents were opened, we all sang Jingle Bells together. It was such a delight for us to spend some time with the children and see the smiles on their faces!



Pictures:

- Left – Singing Jingle Bells with everyone
- Right Top – Kids asking Santa questions
- Right Bottom – Brothers opening presents with the kids



<b>UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS</b>	
<b>December 16</b>	<b>Begin Winter Break</b>
<b>December 24</b>	<b>Christmas Eve</b>
<b>December 25</b>	<b>Christmas Day</b>
<b>January 1</b>	<b>New Year's Day</b>
<b>January 11</b>	<b>Begin Spring 2023 Semester</b>
<b>January 13</b>	<b>Preference Dinner</b>
<b>January 15</b>	<b>Bid Signing Ceremony</b>



**LOOKING FORWARD**

**We just elected a new executive board at the end of the Fall Semester so look for the next newsletter for our new officer introductions!**





## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

### Matthew Yee, External Relations Chair

I hope you have enjoyed the winter edition! This will probably be my last edition as the external relations chair. I have so enjoyed this role in the chapter, sharing our activities, stories, and accomplishments with you all. As always, thank you for reading. Please feel free to reach out with any comments or questions you may have! Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

# 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

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