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The Official Newsletter of
Sigma Phi Epsilon – Indiana Zeta



BALANCED MEN

IN THIS ISSUE

2023 Winter Edition!

With the Fall semester having concluded, the Brothers of Indiana Zeta are enjoying some well-deserved rest. It has been a very busy semester filled with lots of events we are excited to share with you in this issue! After a brief bit of rest we will be back at it in the new year and new semester with even more activity. We hope that everyone can enjoy some quality time with family and friends over the holidays!

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BMS Scholarship & Banquet

Micah D'Archangelo

The Balanced Man Scholarship. SigEp nationals describes it as “the single best recruitment tool in the fraternity world.” Indiana Zeta describe it as an opportunity to recognize the best men of the freshman class. This year, we had a stunning 71 applications, almost $\frac{1}{4}$ of all male new students at the university and over 30% of all male freshmen. The young men who applied brought accomplishments from state titles in cross country to over 800 hours of community service to the title of high school valedictorian. Over the course of the semester, these men participated in 5 events, each designed to present them with opportunities to improve their leadership skills or balance in some manner or another. Of the 71 applicants, we selected 25 finalists for whom we hosted a leadership retreat which included a workshop and ropes course. At these events, we saw applicants shine. From directing other applicants and brothers in a log walk activity with metered calls, to showcasing precise knowledge of the roman empire during a strengths presentation, finalists showed us that we had chosen our winners well.

At the final banquet, over 101 attendees heard speeches from brothers Matthew Yee and Noah Godsell on balance and leadership and finally from brother Mark Robison on impact. Not only did Mark talk about the impact that SigEp could have on these young men, but also the impact that they can have on SigEp and the university as a whole. Empowered by this keynote, we awarded 6 winners with a total of \$3000. In the spring, we hope to welcome many of these young men into our chapter. This year’s Balanced Man Scholarship has been a huge success, and we look forward to continuing to grow it over the years to come.



Pictured:

Left: The men of IN Zeta and all BMS Finalists
Above This year's BMS Finalists.

Grand Chapter President Visit Noah Godsell

On October 31st, our brothers were not celebrating Halloween; instead, we were celebrating our Buchanan Cup and Founders Day. To highlight this celebration we had an extraordinary guest that we were honored to welcome into our house, Grand Chapter President Brad Nahrstadt. Jack Colwell, Trevor Henckel, and I all put in work to put this incredible event together. Our brothers worked together to transform the dance floor with tables decorated with the Fraternity's flowers. The brothers filled every chair we had and you could feel the excitement in the air. The night started with food catered by a local restaurant "Picante." Once we finished our dinners we then transitioned to our speakers. We had one member from each joining class give a speech about what joining SigEp has meant to them. Shoutout to Dylan Grace, Micah D'Archangelo, Kyle Morrison, Matt Latzke, and Tobias Demonte for your amazing speeches. After our members, it was President Nahrstadt's turn to give us his SigEp story. After sharing his story about how SigEp changed his life, the floor was opened for questions where we discussed how to continue to strive for greatness and what it takes to win a Gold Buchanan Cup in 2025. Lastly, we cut into a beautiful cake courtesy of our advisor, Carrie Whittier. It was a fun and inspirational night and we were very honored to have the Grand Chapter President there to celebrate our Buchanan Cup and Founders Day with us all.



Burning Heart

Roman Van Meter

On October 28th, the men of Indiana Zeta participated in the long-held tradition of Burning Heart. This event is open to the public, where brothers receive their bigs and symbolically witness the lighting of the Greek letters Sigma, Phi, Epsilon, and, of course, the heart. This night was a time for the newly joined members, including myself, to absorb what it truly means to join Sigep. As each letter was lit, we stood a few feet away, our eyes filled with the fire in front of us. All the while, readings were spoken over each burning. The heat reminded us of the very real commitment we were making to ourselves and each other. We experienced readings on the values of Sigep: virtue, diligence, and brotherly love. Virtue to recognize that as balanced men, we must live honestly with others. Diligence to recognize the work necessary to uplift the fraternity and not oneself. And brotherly love will come forth as a result of the success of these values. It is through these values that we are able to care for each other as a community. The purpose of this ceremony was to remind us of these values and demonstrate the strength of the community we had just joined. As the heart was lit, our faces brightened with fire, and we then met our bigs—the fraternity brothers who would guide us into fraternity life. It was an exciting time to see the faces of those we had maybe already suspected, and I felt very happy with my big. I wish all past and future participants of Burning Heart a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Pictured:

Left: Our Newest Brother: Roman Van Meter!

Above: Picture from Burning Heart Ceremony

New Executive Board

In November the brothers of Indiana Zeta have elected the following men to the Executive Board

(Pictured Left to right):

Korbin OpFer - Vice President of Communications

Zach Nielsen - Vice President of Recruitment

Adam White - Vice President of Finance

Mason Tulacz - Chaplain

Trevor Henckel - Chapter President

Jack Colwell - Vice President of Member Development

Evan Gustafson - Vice President of Programming

Conner Daehler - Vice President of SigEp Learning Community

Kyle Morrison - Executive Secretary

Good luck to these men as they lead the chapter this upcoming year!



Valpo Girls Soccer

Joey Gentile

On Saturday November 11, 2023 Valpo had an amazing opportunity as the Valparaiso Women's Soccer team went to the NCAA tournament and played Notre Dame in the very first round. This came after they won the conference tournament to be the first Valpo team to win the Missouri Valley Conference tournament. Brothers were excited to support our school as we had multiple brothers watch the conference tournament together in the SLC. When we found out that the first round game was at Notre Dame the whole chapter was excited. We had over 20 brothers go to South Bend to cheer on our team. The entire stadium was full of Valpo fans! The student section was rocking and was led by our very own Sam Booth. Valpo unfortunately was unable to win the game, but brothers had a blast cheering on our team and then exploring South Bend and Notre Dame's campus after. We are always excited to support our athletic teams and hope to see the women's soccer team back in the tournament next year. Go Valpo!



SigEp Christmas Trevor Henckel

Each year, our brothers raise money for Hilltop Neighborhood house through our philanthropy event SigEp Splash, but what many people don't know is that all of the money raised is donated in the form of Christmas presents. This year our brothers raised over \$4000! On December 14th, brother Cade Williams dressed up as Santa and the rest of us carried over 100 presents over to Hilltop. The children were immediately drawn to the brothers as we walked in, as excitement filled the air. While we were there, we watched the kids excitedly rip open presents, sang songs with them, and Cade even read them 2 Christmas stories. Being able to plan this event and see the children's faces when they open the presents is the single most rewarding thing that I have experienced in my time as a SigEp here at Valparaiso University. I love the ability that Sigma Phi Epsilon gives my brothers and I to give back to the community and support Hilltop Neighborhood House. I look back on my time as Vice President of Programming fondly when I think of how our connection with Hilltop has thrived and I look forward to continuing to work with Hilltop as a chapter.



Generosity Award Korbin OpFer

The Generosity Awards is an annual awards ceremony organized by the University to recognize the actions of students, faculty, staff, student organizations, and Fraternity and Sorority life. The awards not only acknowledge generosity but also aim to inspire and motivate others through the sharing of stories. Each winner receives a \$100 award to donate to a philanthropic cause of their choice. Before discussing SigEp's award and where our \$100 donation went, it is important to acknowledge the other recipients. The amount of time and effort freely given by individuals, faculty, and student organizations at Valparaiso was truly inspiring. They demonstrated an exceptional dedication to helping those in need. Regarding SigEp, we received an award in the Fraternity category for SigEp Splash. Our \$100 donation, along with the proceeds from Splash, was given to Hilltop Neighborhood House.





UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS

Dec 15-Jan 9	Winter Break
January 10	Spring Semester Starts
January 12	Preference Dinner
January 14	Spring Bid-Turn In
February 2-4	Carlson Leadership Academy
February 23	Burning Heart Ceremony



LOOKING FORWARD

Be sure to look for the next newsletter which will feature the BMS Banquet, the Fall Burning Heart Ceremony and more!

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

I hope you enjoyed this edition of the Sigma Phi Epsilon IN Zeta newsletter! This will be my last issue as External Relations Chair. It has been an honor creating this newsletter for 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 Happy New Year from all of us here at Indiana Zeta!

Mason Tulacz-External Relations Chair

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.

MEET OUR CHAPTER

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