

RED *the* DOOR

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RED DOOR

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THE RED DOOR

Welcome to The Red Door, the official newsletter of the Mississippi Beta Chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon at Mississippi State University! This quarterly publication will cover chapter events, goals, and accomplishments. Whether you are an alumni, parent, guardian, volunteer or any combination of the above, we are grateful for your support of our chapter and want to use this newsletter to show you how we are working to build Balanced Men here in Starkville! In this quarter's edition, we will cover highlights from the spring 2023 semester like our campus involvement, annual Alumni Crawfish, and our spring Family Weekend, just to name a few. We want to thank you again for the support you provide to our chapter, and we look forward to giving you a glimpse into life at Mississippi Beta!

In Brotherly Love,



Hayden Cherry
VP OF COMMUNICATIONS



Skylar Ross
VP OF ALUMNI RELATIONS

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THOMAS HUNT
CHAPLAIN

Awards & Achievements

By Hayden Cherry '25

This semester, our chapter was recognized for our excellence in several areas of operation, including programming, brotherhood, and standards and accountability.

At the 2023 Student Choice Awards, our chapter was recognized alongside the brothers of Kappa Alpha Psi, Fraternity Inc. for Outstanding Greek Collaboration of the Year for our Cookies & Cocoa philanthropy event.

At the 2023 Ritter Awards, our chapter was awarded the Excellence in Brotherhood award for our strong member development program. This is the third year in a row that our chapter has received a Ritter Award as we took home the 2021 and 2022 awards for Excellence in Scholarship. Isaiah Morgan, our Vice President of Recruitment, was also named Greek New Member of the Year out of all 36 Greek chapters at MSU.

In addition to these campus honors, our chapter was also presented with an Excelsior Award for Standards and Accountability from Sigma Phi Epsilon Headquarters in April of this year. This award recognized the efforts made by multiple executive boards and Chaplains to better serve our members and help them remain accountable in their growth as members.



Takeaways from ATL

By Hayden Anderson '26

Every winter, newly-elected members of SigEp chapter executive boards attend Carlson Leadership Academies across the country. This weekend-long program specializes in teaching each executive board member be effective and successful in their respective roles. This year, the Mississippi Beta chapter was able to send all nine executive board members and one

“Rising Leader” to participate in the Atlanta Carlson Leadership Academy. The Rising Leader track trains brothers who have the leadership and passion to be a leader in

SigEp and the community. This year’s Rising Leader was freshman Anthony Mattina. “I learned about personal leadership, optimizing the chapter as a younger, non-executive member, and how networking beyond my chapter and university can provide wonderful resources and relationships that benefit myself and Sig Ep,” Mattina said.

One executive board member, Will Woods, felt that he learned how to better service in his role of Vice President of Finance through the lessons he was taught at Carlson.

“I really enjoyed being able to learn how to better keep track of our chapters finances in a more successful way,” Woods said.

Want to learn more? Check out the full article on our website!

Academic Achievement

By Hayden Cherry '25

Our chapter continued our commitment to academic excellence and earned a 3.26 overall GPA this semester. This average earned us a spot in the top three chapters out of all 17 Interfraternity Council chapters at Mississippi State. With this semester's placement, our chapter has now had 12 straight semesters in the top five. Our new member GPA this semester was a 3.25, which was the second highest new member GPA out of all 17 chapters. Our chapter has also ranked in the top five for average new member GPA for the past six consecutive semesters.

Justin Traywick serves as the Vice President of SigEp Learning Communities and manages our chapter's academic improvement efforts. "I'm proud of the work I've seen from our guys this semester. They have put in a lot of effort and even created study groups for classes all on their own. I enjoy getting to see all that hard work pay off when grades come out," Traywick said.

Alumni Crawfish

By Skylar Ross '24

This April, brothers of the MS Beta chapter, both past and present, gathered for our Annual Alumni Crawfish Boil. Our chapter looks forward to this event each year, as it provides us and our alumni the opportunity to reminisce on fond memories all while creating new ones. As we reflected on shared memories of the chapter, we also took the time to recognize the legacy of two brothers who are no longer with us, Ira Kirkpatrick and Ed Scott. We were honored to welcome the family members of these two brothers in a celebration of their lives and their dedication to MS Beta, their friends, and their family. Ira and Ed's legacy lives on in the presence of the stone bulldog statues in the front of the chapter facility. No gesture could ever fully express their dedication to our chapter, but knowing they are still with us every single day is a blessing to the chapter. As the day of good crawfish, shared memories, and recognitions were made, brothers and guests made their way to Dudy-Noble Field to watch our Mississippi State Bulldogs take on the Rebels of the school up north. The Diamond Dawgs emerged victorious, cementing an astonishing seven straight series wins against the Rebels. We are grateful to all the alumni and supporters who were able to attend this year and look forward to welcoming even more brothers back next spring!

SPRING 2023 DEAN'S LIST *Mississippi State Sigma Phi Epsilon*

Cameron Brickler	Kameron Loupe
Jay Canale	Dawson Mack
Kyle Cauthen	Andrew Marley
Benjamin Cuny	Liam Mathis
Todd Eubanks	Anthony Mattina
Omar Garcia	Rowan Russell
Thomas Hunt	Bryson Steinke
Lincoln Jones	Alex Taylor
David Kiesel	Eric Toups
Freddy Kinney	Easton Wamble
Garrett Knotts	Blake Williams
Jacob Lindsey	Will Woods

SPRING 2023 PRESIDENT'S LIST *Mississippi State Sigma Phi Epsilon*

Sam Ball	Walker King
Trace Barnett	Patrick Little
Chris Bolton	Dalton Lovitt
Campbell Carter	Judson Moore
Hayden Cherry	Hunter Pope
Andrew Dicke	Leyton Riley
Ben Dolihite	Reilly Rodgers
Connor Douglas	Seth Sloan
Brady Forsythe	Camden Smith
Seth Gibson-Todd	Philip Stewart
Elijah Goulet	Sam Stewart
Grant Houston	Justin Traywick
Josh Jennings	Cameron Verser
Logan Johnson	Dayne Woodin
Brandon Vanlandingham	



Advisor Appreciation

By Hayden Cherry '25

Our chapter, like any group of undergraduate students, changes from year to year as brothers join and others graduate. Luckily, our chapter has a constant supporter and leader in our advisor, Mr. Chad Dacus. Chad has worked with our chapter since we returned to campus in 2017 and has been instrumental in the success we have seen since then. Chad has devoted countless hours to our chapter in the form of chapter and executive board meetings, national conferences, and even his own Learning Community events.

This year, we were able to both present Chad with our own recognition for his work but also see his work be recognized by our campus and national headquarters. This year, we awarded Chad with the Volunteer Excellence Award and held a cookout in his honor. It was at this cookout that we were able to present him with the Sigma Phi Epsilon District 16 Chapter Advisor of the Year Award. Later in the semester, Chad was also recognized for the second year in a row as the Student Choice Awards Organization Advisor of the Year. Although he will probably never tell you himself, he is a pillar of our chapter and we are proud to call him an advisor and a brother.



Philanthropy Fun!

By Hayden Anderson '26

Throughout the year, MS Beta brothers plan events revolving around fundraising for our philanthropy, the Boys and Girls Club of Starkville. This January, we partnered with the brothers of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. to host Cookies & Cocoa. Our brothers had a great time serving our fellow students and community members, and we are proud to have raised \$2,000 for the Boys & Girls Club. Later this semester, we also hosted our annual philanthropy week, Wild West! To begin the week, SigEp partnered with Starkville Nutrition, a local tea shop, for a benefit day. For every tea purchased that day, a portion of the proceeds went directly towards the Boys & Girls Club of Starkville. Later in the week, our chapter hosted a tennis tournament that featured men's, women's and mixed doubles divisions. To finish off the week, our chapter hosted a carnival at our chapter house and invited students from the Boys & Girls Club to attend! There were several carnival events such as "Dunk a SigEp," and of course "Pin the Tail on a SigEp." During the carnival, Boys and Girls Club students played for free; however, the event was also open to MSU students who could pay to play with a donation to the Boys & Girls Club. Our chapter looks forward to seeing Wild West grow in the coming years and seeing it become a highly anticipated annual event.

Parents' Weekend

By Hayden Anderson '26

With Bulldog Baseball season in full swing, our chapter was excited to invite our parents and families to our chapter facility to enjoy food, fellowship, and music before cheering on the Diamond Dawgs. Our brothers look forward to this event every year, as it allows us to give some of our biggest supporters a glimpse into life at Mississippi Beta and show them around our chapter facility. Our chapter is also grateful for Ms. Renee, our house director, for her help in planning this event every semester!

Although our Bulldogs fell to Vanderbilt, we are grateful for the great food, music, and fun that was had. We look forward to another exciting Parents' Weekend this fall wrapped in maroon and white. Parents, be on the lookout for more information about our fall Parents' Weekend on our Mississippi Beta SigEp Parents' Page on Facebook. Make sure to join if you haven't already for updates and announcements throughout the semester!



Spring Retreat Recap

By Skylar Ross '24

The men of MS Beta made their way to Lake Tiak-O'Khata for our semesterly brotherhood retreat, one of our chapter's favorite traditions. A time for bonds to be built and strengthened, the brotherhood retreat is truly an unforgettable experience. From bonding activities and ceremonies to seminars and family time, the retreat is a packed day of events.

Fraternity families are extended as new brothers are matched with their big brother, and meals are shared with the famous chicken tenders provided by the wonderful staff of Lake Tiak-O'Khata. We concluded our retreat with the Burning Heart ceremony where we introduced new chapter members to their big brothers, mentors who guide them throughout their time in the chapter. Our chapter's brotherhood retreat remains an integral part of our programming each semester, as it allows for brothers to grow with each other outside of an academic setting and remove themselves from the craziness of the semester. Regardless of where it is held, our brotherhood retreat is a chance for us to focus on our cardinal principle of Brotherly Love and create bonds and memories that will outlast the four years of our time as an undergraduate member.

