

March 1, 2011

Members of the Ann Arbor City Planning Commission
Larcom City Hall
301 E. Huron St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Dear Sir or Madam:

My name is Jerry Mangona, and fourteen years ago, a group of freshmen and sophomores began working together to re-colonize a chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon (SigEp) at the University of Michigan. We all came to the fraternity for different reasons. Mine was simple – I was in another fraternity chapter which recruited me with promises that I would not be hazed. Four months later, sleep deprived and standing barefoot in buckets of ice, I felt betrayed. In exiting that organization, I knew there had to be another way. Soon after, I heard about SigEp.

Sigma Phi Epsilon, headquartered in Richmond, VA, pioneered the non-hazing, non-pledging initiation process when the award-winning leadership development program called the Balanced Man Program ("BMP") was first implemented in the fall of 1992. The BMP is a self-paced, personal development experience with the premise of "Universal respect for self and others." SigEps are encouraged to live a balanced life based on the foundation of the Balanced Man Concept of sound mind and sound body. SigEp has been nationally recognized by college presidents and the U.S. Department of Education, becoming the model for other fraternities in the process of restructuring their membership programs in order to adapt to the changing nature of the Greek System. When SigEp returned to Ann Arbor with the BMP, the founding fathers knew this was the right path.

The goal of our fraternity is to provide programming for our members to achieve their full potential while providing them with experiences and friends that will last a lifetime. The Balanced Man Program was designed to develop scholars, leaders, athletes, and gentlemen. Above all, our primary goal is to encourage our members to develop as scholars, as this is the reason to attend college.

In fact, last year, the chapter can boast the following:

- 62 members in the Kappa Beta Phi Wheelhouse (3.15 and above)
- 47 members on pace for magna cum laude (3.5+)
- 18 members qualifying for summa cum laude (3.8+)
- 5 Angell Scholars (consecutive semesters of all A's)

Above and beyond individual development and growth, our chapter maintains a deep-rooted tradition of excellence in its endeavors. This last year has been no different.

Last year the chapter has seen no shortage of major achievements:

- The chapter was presented with the Buchanan Cup for Chapter Excellence
- The Alumni Volunteer Corporation won an award for Operational Excellence at the Carlson Leadership Academy
- The chapter has brothers on 3 varsity sports and an officer seated on the Interfraternity Council
- Our former Chapter President, Rick Stepanovic, was one of the 18 brothers nationwide invited to attend the Quest to Greece. This is an intense, ten-day journey of personal growth through ancient Greece paid for by the generosity of our former Grand President William Tragos. Hundreds of applicants competed for the scholarship, and we are honored that Rick had the opportunity to represent the University of Michigan last summer.
- The chapter won the All-Greek Intramural Athletic Championship Trophy
- The chapter, paired with Alpha Gamma Delta, won 1st Place in Greek Week, a philanthropic event spanning several weeks and raising thousands of dollars.

When the University of Michigan SigEp chapter was re-colonized in 1997, it was founded by a group of men who believed a successful, enjoyable greek letter organization could develop character and build brotherhood without having to resort to hazing and pledging. The re-chartering members believed it then and the chapter still believes that today. Finding a permanent home for our chapter would solidify our roots and provide us with the resources to continue building what we started.

On behalf of the over twelve hundred living alumni of the University of Michigan who have been initiated into the brotherhood of Sigma Phi Epsilon, I thank you for your consideration in the matter coming before the City Planning Commission.

Sincerely,

Jerry Mangona
President, Michigan Alpha Alumni Association
Email: uofmsigep@gmail.com