

SIGEP MO ALPHA UPDATE



A LETTER TO OUR ALUMNI

Dear Brothers,

We are all affected by today's unique environment, but our reborn chapter's momentum continues to grow nonetheless, and we felt it time for an update:

Our 19 undergrad members are at home and completing their spring semester classes remotely. This method of coursework is "different", "challenging", and for some "boring", but they're getting the job done and working toward a repeat of last fall's FIRST PLACE in grades out of all Mizzou fraternities. To ensure continued growth in brotherhood, the group is enjoying plenty of virtual interaction: holding weekly chapter meetings, mentor meetings, trivia nights, a charity video game tournament, an active Instagram feed ([SigEp.Mizzou](https://www.instagram.com/SigEp.Mizzou)), and ongoing recruitment activities.

Shawn Cable (SigEp's New Chapter Development Director) has done yeoman's work leading the first phase of our recolonization efforts. His one-year commitment to us has come to a close, handing over the reigns to our undergrads, mentors, Alumni Volunteer Corp (AVC), and alumni. Here are some brief highlights of the past year:

- Attendance by all undergrads at SigEp’s “Life After College” professional development weekend in KC, and at the Carlson Leadership Academy in Chicago to learn from hundreds of brothers the keys to building a great chapter.
- Hosted the Balanced Man Scholarship luncheon at Memorial Union. The event brought in distinguished University leaders, two dozen SigEp alums from MO Alpha and other chapters, all our undergrads, a large group of MO S & T undergrad leaders, and a slate of extremely impressive BMS candidates (who also happen to be prospective new members). MO Alpha truly sparkled in this spotlight.
- #1 in grades for the fall ’19 semester (3.7 GPA!).
- One of only four fraternities awarded MU’s True Sons and Daughters Award, for involvement in the student program of the Mizzou Alumni Association.
- And, MO Alpha now has active involvement of 8 mentors, working closely and meeting regularly with their respective undergrad officers. THANK YOU, mentors, for your time and commitment.

What’s coming? Recruitment is ongoing and will continue through this semester, summer, and fall. Starting this summer, our correspondence with you will become more frequent and more polished, as our chapter communications committee takes on this responsibility. Watch for undergrad bios and activities, alumni brother news, campus updates, improved website and Facebook presence, and much more.

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Website
<https://missouri.sigep.org/>



Instagram:
@SigEp.Mizzou



Twitter:
@SigEp_Mizzou

Finally, MO Alpha is requesting your help:

1. AVC President Dave LaRusso announces that our next AVC meeting will be at 6:30 pm on 6/30/2020, at Adam's office [Commercial Electronics, 3787 Rider Trail South, Earth City MO 63045], and via remote access. The Agenda will include a report from Undergraduate President Gabe Olwig, and election of the 2020 Board of Directors and Officers. Please reply to this email letting us know if you intend to attend in person or remotely.
2. Recruitment remains the lifeblood of our fraternity. Please use the links below to refer freshmen or current MU undergrads that you feel would be a great addition to our great chapter. Please be aware that a 3.0+ GPA is required, along with a strong mix of leadership experience, desire for leadership and personal growth, and the ability to fulfill the time and financial commitments to the chapter.
3. More involvement in the mentoring process and AVC operations is not only welcome but is critical to ensure our continued success. Reply to this email if you are interested in becoming more actively involved in the excitement.
4. We'll be rolling out a mechanism for maintaining a better database of alumni contact information. Until then, please reply with any names (and email addresses) of brothers who you believe are not receiving this correspondence.
5. We're seeking internship opportunities for our young brothers. An ongoing alumni brother internship program will look great for the chapter and be a benefit for the undergrad brothers. Please let us know if your company would go on the list already begun by a commitment from Brother Pfaff.
6. Mark your calendars for 8/30/20 as our new members' Rites of Passage (initiation) will be at MO Gamma in Rolla.

Fraternally,
Ed Clausen '84, Mark Schordock '84,
and Adam Baer '85

[Click here to refer a brother](#)

[Click here for the Balanced Man Scholarship Application](#)

LONG TERM CHAPTER GOALS

Be the kind of chapter that wins Buchanan cups year after year

Maintain our values of virtue, diligence and brotherly love

Be the best organization on campus and have that swagger

Be chartered when eligible at end of Fall

2021

Make a positive impact on the campus community

Meet The Brothers

Wade Raeman

Written by Chase Matteson



Raeman (right) with brother Trevor Timco at Life After College in Kansas City.

Wade Raeman wouldn't be the first to call himself a handy guy, but all of his friends from the infamous Hatch Hall know him as the dude that is always working or fixing things. From docks to his pride and joy Subaru, Wade has a knack for repairing things and spending time outside. He grew up in Lake Saint Louis, Mo. about an hour northwest of the city. Before choosing Mizzou, Wade found his place throughout high school on the wrestling mat. A four-time state wrestler, Raeman is natural athlete and a great lifter.



Raeman stands by his Subaru which he has been repairing.

Wade has loved the transition to college and has already switched majors as he begins to find what he is passionate about. He is a rising sophomore that will be in the Trulaske College of Business with an undeclared emphasis. He was the fourth official member of SigEp Missouri Alpha 2019 and is a legacy from his father, Greg. His reason behind joining the chapter was for the bigger value he saw from the SigEp programs and standards. With that said, he has already attended events like Carlson and expressed how great these opportunities are to other brothers. If he is not hitting the books or at chapter, Wade can be found at the MizzouRec getting stronger and spending time with friends.

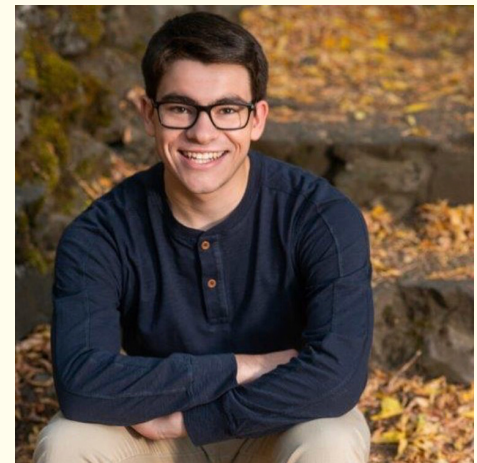
Josh Reneau

Written by Nick Roehm

Josh is a freshman from Washington state studying journalism. He joined SigEp after hanging out with some of the brothers and having a great time. His favorite SigEp value is 'virtue' because it means something different to everyone, and he uses it to work toward the person he wants to be. Josh strives to be someone who is motivated and loves other people.

Josh was the student body president of his high school, something he enjoyed because he got to reach out to other students and know them better. Currently, Josh covers tennis for The Maneater, works at the MU Call Center, and is involved with his church. In his free time, he likes to hang out with his friends, play Xbox, and go running. His biggest influence in life is his mom, who he says has overcome a lot. She was a first-generation college student and is currently pursuing her Ph.D.

Josh's favorite part about SigEp is getting to meet new friends, having the opportunity to become closer with his brothers, and taking part in different philanthropy events.



Reneau has been an active member of SigEp since joining the fraternity. He was key in running our charity video game tournament and attended Carlson Leadership Academy.

Kyle Baker

Written by Elias Cotton

Meet Kyle Baker. A Mizzou freshman engineering student from Lakes Community High School in Lindenhurst, IL, Kyle joined SigEp during their refounding this last year and has already made strides in the chapter, becoming MO Alpha's new Chaplain. A 4 year soccer player in high school, Kyle views his commitment to soccer as his biggest accomplishment. As he says, "I feel like that's a big thing, just sticking through something even when times get tough". He was also involved in NHS, and especially with his transition to college, found his academics to be a top priority. Going into his freshman year of college, he didn't get too involved on campus before he got a lay of the land, but now, having his bearings, says that he wants to become more of a presence on campus. His motivation for coming to Mizzou was a multitude of things, from the proximity to family to the reputation of Mizzou's College of Engineering.



Baker (right) with brother Noah Kizzire at a tailgate. Baker has built strong relationships with the brothers and was elected chaplain.

Kyle initially didn't seem interested in joining Greek Life, however after talks with the chapter president, Gabe Olwig, and the representative from the national chapter, Shawn Cable, he saw the value in becoming a part of SigEp. His biggest motivation for joining SigEp, as he states, were the relationships and environment that the chapter builds and encourages. SigEp's value of brotherly love rings true in Kyle's life, as he does his best to not only push himself, but strives to push his brothers and watch everyone grow together. Something he really enjoys about the timing of his arrival to MO Alpha is as he puts it, "a really cool idea to build something from the ground up". Having been elected Chaplain, he hopes to further the development of his brothers and push the chapter towards academic and professional excellence as he and the rest of the chapter navigate the coming years together. He says that the best part of SigEp has been "watching it grow", and seeing how many talented and driven people he has been able to meet and group together.

“ I feel like that's a big thing, just sticking through something even when times get tough ”



Baker (far right) with his SigEp brothers and friends on the MU campus in the Fall.

Elias Cotton

Written by Lukas Parrish

Elias Cotton was born and raised in Affton, Mo. He attended Affton High School, where he was heavily involved in a wide variety of activities. He was very involved with band, where he was the section leader for trombones his senior year. He also worked with Students Fighting Hate during his sophomore and junior years, where he helped plan and execute the first Unify STL event. This event brought a lot of speakers and helped facilitate healthy conversations over controversial topics such as race, the justice system, and much more. He even managed to qualify for the state wrestling tournament his senior year. He decided to attend Mizzou after he toured his junior year and fell in love with the campus. He also liked the excellent engineering department they had, as he hopes to go into Electrical Engineering.

Coming to Mizzou, Elias had no interest in joining a fraternity. It wasn't until he had conversations with Shawn Cable, and brother Noah Kizzire where he realized his values aligned exactly with those of SigEp. Since joining SigEp, he has loved the connections he's been able to make with the brothers. A big selling point for Elias was the equal rights and responsibilities philosophical tenet that SigEp incorporates. The immediate inclusion in SigEp has been his favorite part of being a brother so far. In his free time, Elias enjoys playing video games, specifically Battlefield, playing trombone, and relearning the guitar. His favorite quote comes from the last line of Teddy Roosevelt's "Man in the Arena" speech: "And who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat."



Eads is a motivated business student and was elected chapter treasurer



Cotton volunteering at Step Up STL.



Cotton (right) after being selected as a Summer Welcome leader. Cotton has been heavily involved on the MU campus and will be welcoming freshman virtually this summer.

Austin Eads

Written by Josh Reneau

Austin Eads was never supposed to be where he is today.

That's not to say that his resume was lacking anything. In fact, he probably was more qualified to be in college than most his age. As a member of two different bands in his high school, the president of his high school's National Honor Society, and a member of Smokebusters, his high school's tobacco prevention organization, Austin had something else working against him. Austin Eads is a first-generation college student.

Hailing from the small town of Bethany, Missouri, Austin was one of the approximately 50% of his high school that pursued a higher education after high school. Austin is receiving the Missouri Land Grant with Honors and attained a 3.94 GPA in his first semester at Mizzou. He is already on his way to pursuing the 5-year masters program in accounting. Already a member of Alpha Kappa Psi, a business fraternity on campus, Austin was drawn towards SigEp by the opportunity to make lifelong friends with a driven, motivated group of guys.

Austin is excited to return to school in the fall and apply for his upper-level courses. He's also pretty excited to not have any Friday classes. We're excited to have Austin with us as we continue in our pursuit of creating balanced men.

Jacob Rush

Written by Jack McGrath

Jacob Rush has been vitally important to the maintenance of high chapter morale since the move to online classes. From his key contributions to the first annual “SigEp Showdown” charity video game tournament to organizing and hosting bi-weekly chapter trivia competitions, Rush has given outlets for the chapter to build brotherhood without being present on campus.

“Being able to run trivia, it's been fun,” said Rush. “I like to lead people so being able to host like that and to be almost entirely responsible for it is something I like to do.”

A fourth generation Mizzou student, Rush is part of the Cornell Leadership Program, an exclusive program that accelerates business school teachings. In high school Rush was president of DECA which is a business competition program. Rush made it past the district and state competitions to make it to internationals his senior year. He said that the competition stretched him as he role-played business situations involving the Postal Service, a computer repair shop, and the creation of an airline in respective competitions.

A Lee’s Summit West alumnus, Jacob was also a skilled debater in high school and was a leader of the debate team. He says going to nationals for debate his senior year was one of his favorite experiences.

Rush sees potential for personal development and leadership growth in SigEp. He noted the Balanced Man Program as an area that promotes development.

“I feel like I’ve already gained so much out of SigEp, just being able to meet a bunch of people and run some events,” Rush said. “I think there’s so much more ahead.”

Rush wants to leave the chapter better than he found it and to instill a culture that has staying power.



Rush (left) at a MU football game in 2017. Rush is a fourth generation Mizzou student and is happy to be attending the university.

“
Do or do not.
There is no
try.”

Rush's favorite quote, which is said by Master Yoda in The Empire Strikes Back.

Updates and Recognitions



Brother Greg Pierson falls short in City Council election on June 2

Greg Pierson, an 18 year old first-year student, ran for City Council in Columbia's First Ward. Pierson has been campaigning with the main goal of encouraging student engagement in local politics. He has worked to register student voters throughout the semester. He plans on staying involved and being a student voice in the community. You can learn more about his efforts online at Pierson4CoMo.com or on [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) @Pierson4CoMo.

Pierson registering voters at the MU student center.

SigEp Showdown charity video game tournament a success

The SigEp Showdown charity video game ran smoothly, according to brother Jacob Rush. Half of the proceeds raised from the tournament were donated to the Food Bank of Central and Northeast MO. Over 60 people competed in the weekend tournament which required a \$5 entry fee. All games were played remotely and the tournament is slated to become an annual event.



Jonathan Kimberly holds his video game prize after winning the SigEp Showdown from his home near Spokane, Wa.



Our brothers at the Carlson Leadership Academy in Chicago in February. 13 MO Alpha brothers attended the weekend event where they learned important leadership skills.

Have an alumni update, recognition, or something you want to tell us? Email our Communications VP Jack McGrath at SigmaPhiEpsilonMizzou@gmail.com