



SPRING 2024 NEWSLETTER

# THE GOLDEN RAY

A PUBLICATION OF THE EPSILON IOTA CHAPTER

## Another *Thrilling* PIKE Year

## *Brothers Thrive Under New Programming*

**A**s another school year comes to an end, I can't help but reflect on growth and success the chapter has achieved this year. These young men set out last summer determined to improve in all areas, taking the time to evaluate every position and committee. Though change is never easy, they maintained their drive and determination to be the dominating fraternity on campus.

Kicking off the fall, recruitment showed up in full force. The new recruitment structure and events proved most successful. We added 21 men in the fall and an additional five in the spring, the most of any fraternity on campus! Our new member program also underwent some improvements to follow the new model set forth by headquarters. This resulted in a 96% retention rate (25 initiates) and one of the highest new member GPAs of all Greek life!

The unveiling of the restored Living Crest was widely celebrated during our Homecoming event; over 70 brothers across eras attended. Plans are in the works for another event at the chapter house the Friday before Homecoming 2024. More details to come!

In November, 37 brothers rode in style via charter bus to Kansas City for the PIKE University Regional Leadership Summit. This is the largest

group to have attended in EI history! Members networked while growing their professional development and leadership skills. Sending this large group would not have been possible without the generous support of so many of you, our alumni. Thank you for your contributions to the PIKE U Endowment Fund!

Winter break did not slow these men down; it brought in a new executive board and a transition, committee, and chapter retreats. Plans were put into motion and goals were established. The chapter was fired up to finish the academic year strong.

Greek Week, spring break, philanthropy week, and everything in between made for a busy spring. The chapter finished out the semester donating over \$7,000 total to philanthropy, raising nearly \$4,000 in fundraising, and contributing over 1,000 hours in community service.

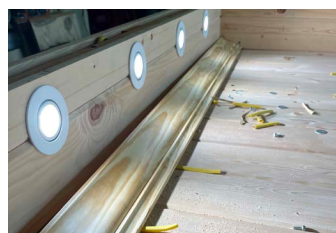
To say I am proud of these young men would be an understatement. They have remained determined and steadfast through it all. I look forward to seeing where they go next year. The best is yet to come!

Fraternally,  
**Alex Schlitt '12**, Epsilon Iota Chapter Advisor



## The Living Crest **RENEWED**

**O**ur iconic Crest was put in storage when the chapter relocated from "K" building to the new Greek Village. Its restoration began immediately to meet the Homecoming deadline. Undergraduates and alumni members helped to not only to restore this important piece of Epsilon Iota history but also to preserve as many of the original components as possible. Careful and meticulous attention to detail was given to ensure historical accuracy was maintained. What started out as an idea rapidly turned into an exhibit of brotherhood at its finest.





# PIKE ALUMNI GOLF RESULTS

Thanks to everyone who attended our annual PIKE Alumni Tournament on April 27. Once the rain stopped, the weather and course were perfect for the event!

## HERE ARE THE RESULTS:

### CHAMPIONSHIP FLIGHT

(58 score with Scorecard Playoff)

- 1st – **Brennan Hollenbeck '05, David Prince '00, Ryan Whitley '04, Josh Pennebaker '03**
- 2nd – **Braden Cox '19, Cameron Mirgeaux '19, Mason Bryars '20, Robert Vazquez**

### A FLIGHT (67 score with Scorecard Playoff)

- 1st – **Larry Eby '88, Mike Henning '87, Jeff Hunnius '87, Steve Vincent**
- 2nd – **Kevin Patterson '85, Michael Seabaugh '82, Rico Santacruz '04, Tim Sander '82**

### SKINS (4 skins awarded)

- **Justin Buck '96** (Hole 14)
- **Tommy Lee '16** (Hole 15)
- **Brennan Hollenbeck '05**
- **Garrett Walker '17**

It was a great turnout, and we can't wait to welcome you back next year.



*PIKE CEO Justin Buck '96 shares a welcome message to kick off the outing.*



*Congrats to our Flight A Championship Teams!*

## FIRE TRUCK



## RESTORATION

**D**o you remember the PIKE Fire Truck? Many of our alumni have great memories around this fire truck. There is a team working to restore the fire truck and we wanted to share their progress with you!

What they've accomplished thus far:

- Determined the correct year and model. (The title was incorrect.) It is a 1928 REO Speedwagon.
- Collected and preserved all the records that came with the truck from Brother **Dave Hutson '78**. These include the police reports from the accident, University documents, service journals, etc.
- Dismantled the wheels, tires, and brakes and completely restored them with new rubber, and newly cast wheel mounts that were missing.
- Located and installed headlights.
- Begun to locate some of the period correct apparatus that is missing after the wreck. This includes the correct search light, rear top mounted red lights, siren, and windscreen. There are very few REOs left that were built with fire beds and the search goes on. They've joined the REO club and continue to dig for parts.

They are committed to making this truck as functional and authentic as it was when it served as the Scott City fire department's first fire truck.







Five of our executive officers attend Chapter Executives Conference in Memphis, Tennessee. From left: Maddox Thorpe '21, Zander Zieba '22, Brendan Gallaher '22, Daniel Smith '23, and Bracey Blanton '22.



From left: Zander Zieba '22 and Maddox Thorpe '21 present a check to Special Olympics Missouri representatives for our fundraising efforts throughout the 2023-24 academic year.

## HOW FAR WE'VE COME

*Brothers Celebrate the Year,  
Look to the Next*

As the 2023-24 academic year ends, we reflect on our growth and success as a chapter. Last summer, we held a retreat to discuss where we were as a chapter, where we want to be, and how we plan to get there. This was highly productive and set the pace for the year to come.

Recruitment was of the highest priority; we set out to add the most and best men at Southeast Missouri State University to our ranks. Thanks to the hard work and dedication led by our recruitment team, we initiated 25 brothers—the highest of any fraternity at SEMO.

We also worked on restructuring our academic programs by establishing a study hours program, implementing tutoring, and creating an accountability system—all to help our brothers fulfill their scholastic commitments. The result? A significant increase in our chapter GPA, including one of the highest new member class GPAs on campus.

To increase community service and engagement, Epsilon Iota chose Special Olympics of Missouri as our new official philanthropic organization. We set a goal to raise \$4,000 in philanthropy this year. In total, we raised over \$7,000 collectively, with nearly \$5,000 benefiting the Special Olympics! We also increased our total community service hours by over 300%, with a collective total of over 1,000 hours for local projects and services.

Altogether, this was a great year for the chapter. From shattering our attendance records at PIKE University to achieving success in and out of the classroom, we have maintained our status as a highly competitive fraternity at Southeast Missouri State University. We head into the summer months with the ambition to continue building upon this year's success.

In the Bonds,  
**Charlie Cox '20**  
President

## Welcome, NEW Members

**Ryan Benton** | Saint Peters, Mo.  
**Brandon Borawski** | Imperial, Mo.  
**Bryan Dimmick** | St. Louis, Mo.  
**Chris Egan** | St. Charles, Mo.  
**Joey Faulkner** | St. Charles, Mo.  
**Charles Grunwaldt** | St. Charles, Mo.  
**Tucker Hequembourg** | Qulin, Mo.  
**David Johnson\*** | Sikeston, Mo.  
**Tanner King\*** | Jackson, Mo.  
**Will Ladek** | Imperial, Mo.  
**Zach Lane** | Jackson, Mo.  
**Cayden Lusch** | Centralia, Mo.  
**Grayson Martin** | Cape Girardeau, Mo.

**Cole Myers** | Festus, Mo.  
**Ryan Nalley\*** | St. Louis, Mo.  
**Mick Otto** | St. Louis, Mo.  
**Jordan Outlaw** | Saint Peters, Mo.  
**Logan Salger\*** | Evansville, Ill.  
**Jake Sauerbrunn** | Jackson, Mo.  
**Daniel Smith** | St. Charles, Mo.  
**Drew Vandeven** | Jackson, Mo.  
**Jacob Weigel** | Imperial, Mo.  
**Zane West** | Mineral Point, Mo.  
**Tyson White\*** | Jackson, Mo.

\*Spring initiates



We initiated 20 members into our bonds in fall 2023. Here, they stand in front of our refurbished Living Crest.

"I saw an organization that not only helps its members but also the community that surrounds it."  
—Zane West '23

"PIKE reminded me of when I played hockey; coming to SEMO and still having a group of guys that will have my back is amazing."  
—Joey Faulkner '23

"I felt welcomed during recruitment, and everyone made an effort to talk to me. I was able to establish good connections with people I didn't know while catching up with members I did. Before learning what PIKE was all about, it seemed to me that this group of guys were professional and great leaders. I was right."  
—Grayson Martin '23



# SAVE THE DATES

## Homecoming: October 26

**8 a.m.** – Tailgate begins in front of Houck Stadium  
**9:30 a.m.** – Parade  
**2 p.m.** – Kickoff



*Undergraduates and alumni get together at the chapter house (and via Zoom) for Homecoming 2023.*

## 1960s-70s “Old Pike” Alumni Reunion:

### October 7-9

Drury Plaza Hotel  
3351 Percy Dr  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Reservations can be made online at **DruryHotels.com** or by calling 1-800-325-0720. Refer to Group Number 10041669. Cutoff date for reservations is September 7.

Questions on the reunion? Contact **Bob Fox '68** at rgfoxdds@gmail.com or (573) 450-0909.



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**Epsilon Iota Chapter of Pi Kappa Alpha**  
**Southeast Missouri State University**  
8347 West Range Cove  
Memphis, TN 38125-0721

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## Thank You, Loyal Donors

**E**psilon Iota thanks all who donated to our Chapter Endowment Fund in the last year. Your gifts have made it possible for our undergraduate brothers to attend valuable educational events like PIKE University.

Online gifts can be made at [www.pikes.org/SupportEpsilonIota](http://www.pikes.org/SupportEpsilonIota).



Truman R. Hahs '62	John E. Bishop '82
Robert W. Kumping Jr. '64	Michael A. Seabaugh '82
Ivan M. Dunn '65	James M. Gleason '83
Vito C. Mangogna '65	Jeffrey S. Vandeven '84
Glenn R. Casey '66	Edward P. Gargas '87
John R. Reimann '67	Larry W. Eby '88
W. Bradley Brune '68	John P. Frisella '88
Robert G. Fox '68	Michael R. Herschbach '88
Kenneth E. Clark '69	Mark R. Krapf '88
Stephen C. Baker '70	Tim Porter '90
Robert H. Cole Jr. '71	David P. Sensiba '93
Robert D. Mobley '72	Kyle D. Vogt '95
William H. Cole '73	Justin A. Buck '96
Ronald W. Maurer '75	Nathan D. Sneed '96
Charles J. Herbst III '81	Kyle P. Waltz CPA '96
Mark S. Rutledge '81	Mark W. Haaser '97

Edward R. Hendrix '97
Jesper Noer '97
Frank C. Bertrand III '98
Andrew J. Hardesty '98
Richard L. Plass '98
Brian M. Kohlberg '00
Mark M. Zieres Jr. '01
Michael P. Taylor '03
Edwin J. Foreman III '05
Justin A. Nason '05
Matthew J. Ramshaw '05
Sean J. McDowell '17
Seth J. Essner '19
Justin L. Trovillion '20
Nicholas S. Williams '21



*Our 37 undergraduate attendees for the annual PIKE University Regional Leadership Summit in Kansas City. The chapter received awards for most “Man Miles” traveled and Most Improved Attendance.*