



# SIGMA CHAPTER

## *Press Release*



SigmaChapter.org

## Summer In Review

Wednesday, September 5, 2018

The Sigma Chapter of Gamma Iota Sigma hopes you enjoyed your summer! Here are some of the exciting things that the Sigma Chapter did between April and August:



[Sigma Chapter Raises over \\$25,000 for Michael's Giving H.A.N.D](#)



[27th Annual Gamma Gala](#)

Friday, April 27, 2018



[Outstanding Teacher Award](#)

Friday, April 27, 2018



[Owlympiad Math Competition](#)

Wednesday, May 16, 2018

## Sigma Chapter Raises over \$25,000 for Michael's Giving H.A.N.D.

Each year, the Sigma Chapter of Gamma Iota Sigma chooses a charity to fundraise for throughout the entire academic year. In the Fall of 2017, the Sigma Chapter chose Michael's Giving H.A.N.D. as its 2017-2018 Charity of Choice. Beginning in September 2017 and continuing until April of 2018, the chapter hosted bake sales, raffles, a talent show, and a charity auction and collected donations in order to exceed its fundraising goal of \$15,000. In total, the Sigma Chapter raised over \$25,000.

At a very special final body meeting on Wednesday, April 25, 2018, we presented our check to Ron Donatucci Sr. and Ron Donatucci Jr., Michael's father and brother. Christopher Tereo and Lisa Pflaumer, two individuals from the executive board of the charity, were also present. We honored the legacy of Michael and a Temple Alumni, Sophia Verros, who both took their own life due to their struggle with anxiety and depression. The Sigma Chapter created a video that raised awareness for anxiety and depression in order to end the stigma that surrounds Mental Illness. See the full video [here](#).

Michael's Giving H.A.N.D., was founded in honor of Michael Donatucci and aims to bring anxiety and depression out of the shadows. Their goal is to provide education and awareness to High School students and their parents. The organization partners with Temple University's Health Systems to achieve their goals. If you would like to learn more about Michael's Giving H.A.N.D. and training and volunteer opportunities, please visit <http://michaelsingivinghand.org>.

### **The Sigma Chapter's previous charities and past donation totals include:**

- 2016 - 2017 Artz Philadelphia - \$15,000**
- 2015 - 2016 Brave Hearts for Strong Minds - \$15,000**
- 2014 - 2015 Brave Hearts for Strong Minds - \$11,200**
- 2013 - 2014 For Pete's Sake - \$10,000**
- 2012 - 2013 ESF Dream Camp - \$10,000**
- 2011 - 2012 Gift of Life Family House - \$25,000**
- 2010 - 2011 Aid For Friends - \$8,000**
- 2009 - 2010 Arnesha Mash-Walker Foundation - \$5,000**
- 2008 - 2009 Children's Alopecia Project - \$5,000**
- 2007 - 2008 Neighborhood Bike Works - \$2,500**



Lisa Pflaumer, Ron Donatucci Jr., Ron Donatucci Sr., Christopher Tereo and Tina Rybak

## 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Gamma Gala

On the evening of Friday, April 27th, 2018, the Sigma Chapter of Gamma Iota Sigma gathered at the Sonesta Hotel in Center City, Philadelphia to hold the 27th Annual Gamma Gala. Over 240 students, faculty, and alumni were in attendance to celebrate the achievements of the chapter and its members. The evening consisted of dinner, with a Keynote Address from a Distinguished Young Alumni, Russell Rollins, Class of 2013, Middle Market Commercial Underwriter at Travelers.



Following Russell's remarks, the Sigma Chapter initiated 300 new members, growing our chapter to over 600 members in total! We also recognized our members for their continuous involvement in our bi-weekly committee meetings. Jacob Robertson, Matthew Perel, Alana Vicale and Ben Baxter, and Caroline Buckley received recognition for *Outstanding Committee Member* for Actuarial Science Career Development, RMI Employee Benefits Career Development, RMI Property and Casualty Career Development, and Community Affairs respectively.



Jacob Robertson and Elizabeth Arbegast



Matthew Perel and Elizabeth Arbegast



Alana Vicale, Ben Baxter and Elizabeth Arbegast



Caroline Buckley and Elizabeth Arbegast

Members in our Student Engagement Program that passed a threshold were recognized for their inclusion in the Glendenning Honorary Society for Actuarial Science or H. Wayne Snider Honorary Society for Risk Management and Insurance. Of those students, 24 had received scholarships for their exceptional participation in these Sigma Chapter events. 61 members and 59 alumni were recognized for the Alumni Mentoring Program and over 60 pairs were recognized for the Student Mentoring Program. Christopher Hamil received the award for *Member of the Year* for his dedication to the chapter and his involvement that went above and beyond the expectations of average members.



Christopher Hamil and Elizabeth Arbegast

Each year, graduating officers are awarded *Excellence in Leadership Awards*. These awards are given for *Friendship, Fidelity, Integrity, and Knowledge*. For officers graduating in 2018, the *Friendship Award* was given to Franco Giordano for his outgoing and friendly spirit. Tina Rybak received the award for *Fidelity* for her consistent efforts towards reaching our Charity of Choice fundraising goal. Carmela Robinson received the award for *Integrity* for her honest and strong nature. In addition, Amanda Wolfgang received the award for *Knowledge* for her dedication to her studies in both Actuarial Science and Risk Management and Insurance. Finally, an award for *Outstanding Senior Officer*, voted on by fellow peers officers, was given to Alyssa Breiner. Alyssa's dedication to the Sigma Chapter and her position as Secretary furthered the continuing success of the chapter.



**The Sigma Chapter's Graduating Senior Officers**

## Faculty Member Awarded the 2017-2018 Outstanding Teacher Award

On the evening of Friday, April 27th, 2018, the Sigma Chapter of Gamma Iota Sigma gathered at the Sonesta Hotel in Center City, Philadelphia to hold the 27th Annual Gamma Gala. The Gamma Gala commemorates new and returning members of the Sigma Chapter and their outstanding involvement in Sigma Chapter activities during the academic year. It is also an event where we honor the continued dedication of our faculty members, who ensure success for all students, with the *Outstanding Teacher Award*.

Before the Gamma Gala, members of the Sigma Chapter nominate one Professor that they admire for their knowledge of the industry and their desire to help students both academically and professionally. Students were asked to write one or two paragraphs as to why they feel this Professor deserves the *Outstanding Teacher Award*. For the 2017-2018 academic year, **Dr. Thorsten Moenig** was presented the *Outstanding Teacher Award*.

Dr. Moenig is an Assistant Professor of Actuarial Science in Temple University's Department of Risk, Insurance and Healthcare Management. He has been a Temple University faculty member since 2016. After receiving his undergraduate degree in Mathematics at Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, he went on to receive his Master's degree in Actuarial Science at the University Connecticut, and then his PhD in Risk Management and Insurance at Georgia State University. At the Fox School of Business, Dr. Moenig has taught various Actuarial Science courses, including Theory of Interest and Actuarial Modeling.

Students who nominated Dr. Moenig for the award praised him for emphasizing the importance of thoroughly understanding concepts, notation, and actuarial language to assist them in exam preparation and their future in the industry. Students also remarked that Dr. Moenig's comprehensive problem set allowed them to succeed in his courses. The Sigma Chapter is excited to acknowledge Dr. Moenig as the *2017-2018 Outstanding Teacher* and wants to thank him for his continued dedication to the program and his students.



Dr. Thorsten Moenig and Dr. Rob Drennan

## Sigma Chapter Hosts 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Owlympiad

On Wednesday, May 16, 2018, the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Owlympiad Mathematics Competition, hosted by Temple University's Department of Risk, Insurance, and Healthcare Management along with the Sigma Chapter of Gamma Iota Sigma, took place in the Howard Gittis Student Center. 17 schools from Pennsylvania and New Jersey created 26 teams totaling 108 high school students that competed in this year's event. Throughout the day, the teams, comprised of 11<sup>th</sup> graders, competed in three different rounds that tested their mathematical knowledge and problem solving skills. These rounds consisted of a 50-minute team exam, the game 24, and a game of quizzo.

A team sent by Spring-Ford Area High School in Royersford, Pennsylvania was named this year's Owlympiad champions! This event would not have been a success without the hard work of the Sigma Chapter's Actuarial Science Career Development team and Dr. Krupa Viswanathan, who worked hard to plan and coordinate the event. We would also like to thank Nitai Patel, Christina Airddeutschlander, Dr. Tim Shi and Dr. Thorsten Moenig for their help in organizing a team of students who wrote the 50-minute team exam. Additionally, a special thanks to the team of students who wrote and edited the exam, and to Travelers and the Casualty Actuarial Society for proudly sponsoring this event.

