****

**BALANCED MAN SCHOLARSHIP**

**BANQUET SCRIPT**

**PROGRAM AGENDA:**

1. Introductions
2. Guest speakers
3. Finalists
4. Chapter Awards
5. Food
6. Keynote
7. Scholarships

|  |
| --- |
| **Introduction and Welcome** |
| **Notes:** *(Allow members and guests 5 minutes to find their seats. Use this time to set the stage for the banquet and recognize key guests.)* |

*<<BMS Chairman>>:*

Good evening and welcome to the Balanced Man Scholarship awards banquet. My name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I am the \_(balanced man scholarship chairman/president)\_ of the \_(college/university name)\_ chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity, better known as SigEp.

Before we begin, I would like to acknowledge several special guests with us today. First, I would like to thank all of the alumni and volunteers in attendance. Volunteers play a critical role in mentoring chapter leadership and ensuring the long-term viability of our chapter’s success *(applause)*. Next, I would like to thank all of the parents here with us. Your investment in these young men has made them the exceptional students and leaders *(applause)*. Finally, I would like to recognize the \_(college/university name)\_\_\_ faculty and staff with us tonight:

|  |
| --- |
| **Examples:**   * The Dean of Students, Dr. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (applause) * Professor \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, vice chair of the engineering department (applause) * Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, Director of Fraternity & Sorority Life (applause) * and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, our keynote speaker for the evening (applause) |

Tonight we will recognize and reward some of the best and brightest young men at \_(college/university name)\_ today. Among them are a number of varsity athletes, class presidents, valedictorians, team captains, entrepreneurs, volunteers in their communities and leaders of their peers.

Our program tonight will start with a few words from our guest speakers, recognition of each scholarship finalist, chapter member awards, and a break for a meal. We’ll conclude with our keynote speaker and the scholarship awards. There will be time after the banquet for photos and networking with other guests. If at any point you need to use the restroom, they can be found \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

I will now call upon our chapter president, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, to introduce our guest speakers.

|  |
| --- |
| **Guest Speakers** |
| **Notes:** *(The chapter should invite non-keynote guests such as an alumnus or Greek Life Office professional to say a few words during the banquet about the chapter or scholarship. These speakers should be prompted before the banquet about how long they should speak and, generally, what to speak about.)* |

*<<President>>:*

Good evening everyone. My name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I serve as the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ here at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

As mentioned at the beginning of our program, the members of the local Alumni & Volunteer Corporation have spent countless hours supporting our chapter. Our Alumni & Volunteer Corporation is a group of volunteers who are alumni and friends of the chapter that help mentor chapter leaders and keep our chapter running smoothly.

[Insert guest speaker bios]

|  |
| --- |
| **Components of a good bio:**   * Name * Career title & accomplishments * SigEp experience & accomplishments * Current volunteer position   **Example:**  Despite leading a busy life in the business world and having a family, he still makes time for SigEp. Jeff has been a SigEp volunteer for over 20 years and is currently in his fifth term as our Alumni Volunteer Corporation President. Jeff has worked tirelessly to make this a reality. Along with the other AVC members, Jeff networked with our Headquarters and University staff to make sure that SigEp could make the triumphant return to campus. Not only that, Jeff helped establish a SigEp endowed scholarship fund that will be able to offer scholarships in perpetuity. He even serves on the Western Carolina Alumni Board of Directors.  It’s only fitting that we invite AVC President Jeff Dowswell to say a few words. Please help me welcome someone who I now consider a friend, Brother Jeff Dowswell. |

*<<Guest Speaker(s) 2-3 minutes each>>*

[Insert Additional Guest Speakers Bios]

(Chapter president returns to podium.)

Thanks, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. We appreciate you taking some time today to speak with us. I’ll now invite \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, BMS Chairman, back to the podium to read our finalists' biographies.

|  |
| --- |
| **Finalists Bios** |
| **Notes:** *Read biographies for all finalists and present finalist certificates and prizes. It’s imperative that all finalists are recognized in some capacity whether they are winning a monetary scholarship or not. Don’t let anyone walk away empty-handed.* |

*<<BMS Chairman>>*

The Ancient Greeks believed in developing a Sound Mind and a Sound Body as the way to live a fulfilling life. SigEp adopted this philosophy through the Balanced Man Ideal. Since 1990, we’ve awarded the Balanced Man Scholarship to recognize incoming students who exemplify these qualities in their everyday lives.

We’d now like to take the opportunity to recognize each finalist and a few of their accomplishments. Our finalists excel in various areas, from sports to leadership to scholarship.

We’ve identified some extraordinary individuals who are here with us today. Each finalist will receive a BMS Finalist certificate as well as a gift from the chapter to recognize their effort in the scholarship process and their accomplishments to date.

[Insert additional info about finalist gift]

|  |
| --- |
| **Possible finalist gifts (something that connects with the chapter):**   * Book that connects with the chapter * 10$ gift card to the bookstore (sound mind) or grocery store (sound body)   **Example:**  Our finalist gift this year is a a copy of “Start With Why” by Simon Sinek. “Start With Why” is an important book for our chapter because it aligns with our desire for developing values-based leaders. As part of the SigEp experience, members are challenged to practice and improve their leadership abilities by assuming leadership roles in the chapter and attending leadership development events across the country. |

Like we mentioned before, we believe we have some of the brightest students from the class of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ sitting in this room before us today. Overall, we received \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ applications for our Balanced Man Scholarship this year. We reviewed each application thoroughly based on four categories: academic success, athletic involvement, engagement in the community and work experience.

We then took those \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ applicants and narrowed it down to \_\_\_ semi-finalists. We interviewed each one of these semi-finalists and asked them questions about lessons they’ll take with them from high school, their intended legacy at this university, and opportunities they have to improve. We then evaluated which of these semi-finalists best embodied our guiding principles of Sound Mind and Sound Body.

These core principles are aligned with the Balanced Man Program, SigEp’s member development process. In 1990, SigEp became the first fraternity to rethink the development process and completely ban pledging and hazing from our chapters across the nation. The Balanced Man Program is a continuous development program designed with 18-22-year-old college students in mind.

The Balanced Man Program focuses on five areas of development: professional, personal, intellectual, SigEp and leadership development. (*remove rest of paragraph if unhoused chapter)* These core principles are also embodied in our residential learning communities, which as of 2017, are substance-free facilities. That means that our fraternity homes are focused on fostering personal development and eliminate the use of alcohol or other substances within our homes.

We believe personal development should be continuous and the finalists we have selected each embody this principle.

From \_\_\_\_\_\_ applications … to \_\_\_\_ semifinalists … to \_\_\_\_\_ finalists. We are proud to say that these finalists are averaging a \_\_\_\_ GPA on a 4.0 scale.

Finalists, after we read through your accomplishments, if you will, come to the front of the room and receive your BMS finalist certificate and finalist gift from the chapter. Stay in the front of the room so we can recognize the group of finalists at the end. Please hold your applause until all finalists have been announced.

[Insert All Finalist Biographies]

|  |
| --- |
| **Components of a good bio (2-3 sentences):**   * Name and background * High school or college academic/athletic accomplishments * Extracurricular accomplishments   **Examples:**  ***Connor Chapin***  *Connor Chapin is from Hazlehurst, just south of Jackson. Studying software engineering, he brings his strong academic skills from high school where he maintained a 4.0 GPA. Connor was also the captain of his high school soccer team and served as the president of the quiz bowl team. Conner has been awarded the Freshman Academic Excellence Scholarship, Engineering Scholarship and in his free time, Connor enjoys playing guitar and baseball. He desires to push those around him to become better, both physically and mentally.*  ***Trey Dilly***  *Trey is a freshman from Brandon, Mississippi. He is studying computer science and cybersecurity. He is a member of the famous maroon band here at State and is a proud Eagle Scout, becoming a part of the Order of the Arrow Brotherhood. He served his community through numerous volunteer hours working with hurricane relief, in-need youth and working with younger boy scouts in his troop. Trey was a co-captain of his drum line and was also on his high school archery team. Trey has been awarded the MSU Academic Scholarship, the Eagle Scout Scholarship, and the Methodist Foundation Scholarship.* |

(Photo opportunity - have VP Communications take a photo of all the finalists)

Let’s give one final round of applause to each of our finalists as they return to their seats.

(Lead Applause)

|  |
| --- |
| **Chapter Member Scholarships** |
| **Notes:** *(Spend 3-5 minutes recognizing current members of the chapter with 2-3 awards. Make these awards exemplify the chapter’s values and show the finalists what can be accomplished by joining SigEp. Inspire them to want to accomplish what current members have accomplished. )* |

**Chapter Member Scholarships**

*<<BMS Chairman>>*

Tonight’s banquet is not only to recognize the outstanding students who have applied for our scholarship. We’d also like recognize our own brothers’ accomplishments here at \_(college/university name)\_ . In the past year, Sigma Phi Epsilon was awarded \_(name and describe chapter honors and awards)\_. These feats can only be accomplished through the work of motivated brothers who are committed to pushing SigEp to the next level.

I would now like to invite Mr./Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ our (AVC president or chapter counselor or other key guest) to present awards to members of the chapter.

[Insert short biography of AVC president or chapter counselor or other key guest]

*<<AVC president or chapter counselor>>*

[Insert chapter member award descriptions]

|  |
| --- |
| **Example:**  **Virtue Award:** The SigEp creed states: that Virtue is an inclusive term and that we will stand aggressively for honesty in all walks of life. Committed to this “aggressive honesty” Woody Mcllheny has pushed our organization towards conversations of vulnerability and value, asking us - how well do we truly know each other? For standing for honesty in his life, we are proud to present him with the Virtue Award.  **Diligence Award:**  Striving to develop himself, his teams, and Virginia Tech each day, our next brother works endlessly towards success. Achieving the highest GPA within the College of Natural Resources and Environment for his first three semesters while managing an expansive leadership development team, Matthew Muller works tirelessly day and night. We are in awe at his entrepreneurial nature and we are proud to grant him the Diligence Award. |

Thank you and congratulations to all of the men who work diligently for the betterment of themselves and the chapter (applause).

(BMS Chairman returns to podium)

|  |
| --- |
| **Meal / Refreshment Break** |
| **Notes:** *(If you have a catered meal, this is the time, if you don’t, a break is still helpful to get more coffee, use the restroom, etc. Allow 20 minutes for members and guests to begin their meal*) |

*<<BMS Chairman>>:*

At this time, I would like to invite our chaplain, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, to deliver an invocation.

*<<Chaplain>>*

Ruler of the universe, guide us in this undertaking. We are grateful for the ideals of Sigma Phi Epsilon that have brought together so many fine young men, brothers, alumni, parents and faculty. Bless this food so it may nourish our bodies and give us strength to perpetuate Sigma Phi Epsilon through the ages. Amen.

*<<BMS Chairman>>:*

[Insert instructions for meal/networking time]

|  |
| --- |
| **Example:**  Our ushers will dismiss you by table. Please, enjoy your food.  *Or…*  Two of our undergraduate brothers, \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, will be coming around to release your tables one at a time to visit the buffet. Until then, please enjoy your table’s company. |

Please enjoy your meal.

|  |
| --- |
| **Keynote speaker** |
| **Notes:** *(This should be your designated speaker for the night. Instruct them to provide a 5-10 minute speech that inspires the audience and connects them with the chapter. A good example is a successful alumnus describing their career and how SigEp helped or a Greek Life Advisor talking about how SigEp is different.)* |

*<<BMS Chairman>>*

I would now like to introduce our keynote speaker for the banquet.

[Insert keynote speaker biography]

|  |
| --- |
| **Example biography:**  John Davis is a native North Carolinian and currently lives in Atlanta with his wife Melanie, his daughter Elizabeth who is a junior in college and his son Walker, a high school senior.  John serves as Senior Vice President Global Sales and Marketing for medical device maker CryoLife. John’s previous professional experience was primarily with Medtronic where he spent 14 years in their Cardiac Rhythm Management division, including 7 years as Vice President of sales.  Upon graduation from Western Carolina, John went to work for Sigma Phi Epsilon as a Regional Director serving chapters in the Great Lakes and Midwest. He has been a long-standing member of the Sigma Phi Epsilon Board of Governors and routinely attends Conclaves and Regional Leadership Academies.  Please join me in welcoming WCU and NC Pi alumnus, John Davis. |

(applause)

[Insert keynote speech notes]

(applause while BMS Chairman resumes the podium)

<<*BMS Chairman*>>

Thank you for those wonderful words. I hope we can all aspire to follow these principles in our lives.

|  |
| --- |
| **Scholarship Presentation** |
| **Notes:** *(Awarding of the monetary Balanced Man Scholarships)* |

*<<BMS Chairman>>*

And now, the moment we’ve all been waiting for. I would like to invite \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, our \_(balanced man scholarship chairman/president)\_, to present the \_\_\_\_(year)\_\_\_\_ Balanced Man Scholarships.

Each year, SigEp awards over $300,000 across the nation with its Balanced Man Scholarships at over 150 different universities. The Balanced Man Scholarship awards students who embody the balanced man ideal as demonstrated by their commitment to academic excellence, leadership, health and well-being.

The \_(college/university name)\_ Chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon has offered the Balanced Man Scholarship annually since \_(year started)\_, awarding over $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

This year, we are awarding $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in scholarships. We were amazed at the accomplishments of all of the finalists. The scholarship winners were able to distinguish themselves from the pack based on their commitment to the Balanced Man ideal. Please come to the front of the room to accept your award and remain there until after all winners have been recognized.

[Insert recipient bio]

|  |
| --- |
| **Example:**  There are two consistent themes that define our next recipient's life, intensity and growth. In high school, this man committed himself to cultivate habits that fostered physical and mental health as well as a passion for servant leadership, mentoring and personal development. Great leaders are ones who inspire others to action. In every team and organization, this man has been involved with, he’s inspired others to adopt his vision and elevate their performance. He is a Wendy’s High School Heisman Award for Athletics recipient for the state of Mississippi - an award given to only one student in each state every year. This man has cultivated an active lifestyle committed to health and wellbeing and has shown a devout duty to not only embody, but teach and cultivate in others the Balanced Man ideals of sound mind and sound body. |

Our first $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ scholarship recipient is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (applause).

[Insert 2nd Recipient bio]

Our second $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ scholarship recipient is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (applause).

(Photo opportunity)

Congratulations once again, and you may return to your seats.

|  |
| --- |
| **Conclusion** |
| **Notes:** *(Conclude the ceremony and be sure to inform guests how to learn more about SigEp.)* |

**Conclusion**

*<<BMS Chairman>>*

In conclusion, if you would like to learn more about SigEp, you can visit our chapter website \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or speak with a chapter member after this banquet. They’d be more than willing to get together for coffee or lunch. We also have various development meetings each week that are open to non-members, such as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ coming up this \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_pm.

That concludes this evening’s ceremony. We would like to once again thank all of you for attending and we hope that you enjoyed tonight’s Balanced Man Scholarship banquet. Lastly, to the finalists: we hope you understand how truly proud your schools, communities and especially your parents are of you all. We were sincerely impressed by the quality of the applicants this year. You should be proud of your outstanding accomplishments but also remember that you have a great journey ahead of you in college. I strongly encourage you to continue striving for excellence in your everyday lives and take advantage of opportunities to surround yourself with others who would do the same.

Thank you and we hope you have a good night.