

eye ON XI

SIGMA CHI, XI CHAPTER I FALL 2013



Peterson AWARD

Sigma Chi DePauw received, for the *FIFTH* year in a row, the Peterson Award. This award is sponsored annually by the Sigma Chi Foundation and is the highest honor that the Fraternity bestows upon an undergraduate chapter. Named for 38th Grand Consul J. Dwight Peterson (Indiana '19), the award recognizes excellent, but not impossible, performance by chapters in all major areas of operation and programming. For many years, the Peterson plaque has been a symbol of dedication, idealism and achievement. ***Congratulations!***

Bret Baier '92 Visits for Old Gold

Bret Baier's ('92) Old Gold visit was memorable for Xi. Our chapter had been anticipating his potential visit for several semesters, and the fulfillment of our wishes to meet brother Baier was a gratifying experience. Amid a great pallet of festivities for the annual "Old Gold" alumni weekend, brother Baier spoke as part of the Ubben Lecture Series. His speech was marked by his induction as a distinguished alumnus for the Pulliam Center of Media. The address by brother Baier was phenomenal and included speaking points on current issues, his approach to journalism, and even a shout-out to the brothers of Xi Chapter, both past and present.

After Bret's speech, he was able to attend a lunch with some of his pledge brothers from the class of 1992 and the current undergraduate members of Xi Chapter. This was a great opportunity for a full network of Sigs to engage with each other. Brother Baier's lunch at the chapter was a fun time and in-

cluded lots of great stories about his time as an undergraduate. One of our favorite lines from brother Baier was a joke about fellow Xi brother Stephen Hayes '93. Bret said that brother Hayes, who appears as a panelist on *Special Report* on Fox News alongside Bret, is included only "because he has too many stories about me." Bret even stood up and gave a short speech to the brothers about how to make your time at Xi Chapter a success. That was an awesome part of his visit for all who attended.

This was one of the moments that brothers of Sigma Chi at DePauw won't forget. All of the brothers who were able to make it to the lunch were thankful. We truly appreciate hearing Bret at the Ubben Lecture, interacting with him at the House, and sharing our stories with the Sigma Chi's who came to attend this event.

Parker Schwartz '15



Brother Bret Baier '92 pictured with active members of the Xi Chapter during the 2013 October Old Gold Weekend lunch

Scholarship Dinner: James K. Baker Formal Room Dedication



*Xi Sigs at the Scholarship dinner with the Baker family
left to right: daughter Betsy Laskey, wife Beverly, son-in-law Tom Laskey*

This past summer, one of Xi's most distinguished and honorable brothers passed to the chapter eternal. James K. Baker '53 was a face of Xi Chapter and a gracious steward of the Sigma Chi Fraternity. Our brothers know the impact he made, and we wanted to thank him for his brotherhood.

At this year's scholarship dinner, we celebrated not only a great academic semester in the spring, but a great man. We invited the family of brother Baker, which included wife Beverly, daughter Betsy Laskey, and son-in-law Tom Laskey, to witness the dedication of our formal room to brother Baker. Given that this is the most important portion of our house, we could think of no better way for people to recognize his impact at Xi Chapter.

For the scholarship dinner itself, we were happy to be graced by the presence of the Baker family. That really made the evening special for the active Sigs. Additionally, a large contingent of brothers invited professors of their choosing from a variety of departments. We

want everyone to know that scholarship is a priority for our chapter.

The dinner recognized brothers of Sigma Chi who have achieved the highest academic grade point averages the previous semester. The top three members of each class received a generous monetary stipend for their successes. The most improved GPA winner also was recognized.

We are proud to say that our scholarship committee was formed this semester, and mechanisms for academic accountability are beginning to be instituted more and more at the chapter. We are holding study tables and have revived our study room downstairs to increase academic performance. It is alumni like brother Baker that remind us not only of our obligation to be good brothers but to uphold the principle of learning that is vital to Sigma Chi members everywhere.

Parker Schwartz '15

stay connected ALUMNI WEBSITE

Brothers, we invite you to keep up with all the latest news about the chapter by logging into our website at www.xisigs.org. Reconnect with your brothers, search by career or location, view photos from recent events, and more!

Xi House Corporation Corner

In addition to the active chapter's *fifth* straight Peterson Award as one of the top, if not *the* top, active chapters in the country, Xi Chapter House Corporation was recognized in 2013 as an Outstanding House Corporation award winner, one of only 19 handed out in the country.

On the financial front, a year ago, the House Corporation had \$830,000 in outstanding bank debt. House Corp is glad to report that the debt has been reduced to \$598,000. Also this summer, we refinanced and got the inter-

(continued on page 3)

Alumni Days: June 5–9, 2013



Class of 1963



Class of 1993

*Tom Turk '58 (left) and
Lou Hensley '77 (right)*

Xi House Corporation Corner

(continued from page 2)

est rate lowered by 1.25% to help save on future interest costs. Brothers who have continued to pay their Capital Campaign pledges—thank you so much—and ongoing House Corp rental operations have helped to reduce the debt.

Please plan on coming back to Old Gold Weekend 2014. We are trying to plan a 155th Celebration dinner on Saturday of Old Gold 2014 after the football game. If you unfortunately missed the 150th, you certainly don't want to miss the 155th. Watch for mailings and info as we lock in the space and timing.

Last but not least: thanks to all who have pledged and/or contributed to the Capital Campaign and/or Annual Fund. New pledges, an increase in the amount of current pledges, and faster pledge payments will reduce our bank debt quicker and are certainly in the

best interest of a successful Xi Chapter for years to come. Your continued support of Xi is always appreciated.

In Hoc, Louis S. Hensley III '77



John Scott '11, Matt Coffin '13, John McGinness '14 with the Peterson Award

UNDERGRADUATE officers

FALL 2013

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RISK MANAGERS

Nico Moorman
Burke Miller
Ninad Amondikar

Lucas Jeffries: Answering America's Greatest Challenge



Brother Lucas Jeffries '15 is a member of the U.S. Army

When brothers think they have had a busy day, all they have to do to find inspiration to do more homework is talk with brother Lucas Jeffries '15. Brother Jeffries is a political science major, has served as a House Manager at Sigma Chi, and is a mentor to local school children. His most notable achievement is his service in the ROTC with the U.S. Army.

A handful of days during the week, brother Jeffries wakes early to endure intense physical and mental training at the ROTC base in Terra Haute, Indiana. Early for most college students at DePauw is waking before their 8:20 a.m. class. For Jeffries, early is four in the morning. His schedule on these days is ROTC at 6:00 a.m., class at 8:30, lunch, more class, a late afternoon workout session, and then studying for his classes after dinner. On some days, Jeffries goes to ROTC

in the morning and then goes back again in the afternoon after class.

Brother Jeffries has been a member of the U.S. Army since his freshman year. Although some have tried and found ROTC to be too much of a time commitment, Lucas has maintained resolve and puts his full time and effort into his service. He enjoys the mental challenge that it takes to be a soldier.

After college, brother Jeffries hopes to use his great experience as a tenured member in ROTC to start a prolonged and successful career as a member of our military. The brothers of Xi Chapter support him in his endeavors and thank him for being a great brother. We encourage you to thank him as well.

Parker Schwartz '15

Xi Sigs Set the Bar For Engagement with Philanthropy and Community

After winning another Richard E. Hester Philanthropy Award last spring, Sigma Chi's Xi Chapter is motivated, as ever, to pursue a new set of philanthropic efforts. Under the thoughtful leadership of Philanthropy Chairman, Kevin Bugielski '16, the Xi Chapter has already been involved with a host of great endeavors.

To begin the fall semester, Sigs hosted our annual Tigerstock event at Bowman Park. The event was co-hosted with the sisters of Alpha Phi Sorority, and it was, undoubtedly, one of our best events we have had to date. Tigerstock included a grill party, in which guests

could purchase a meal and listen to live music performed by brother Doug Tipsword '15. In usual hilarity, brothers also were dropped into the dunk tank, the usual crowd favorite. There was also a T-shirt making station.

Both Alpha Phi and Sigma Chi were elated to see other members of the Greek community come to support this event. In total, we raised over \$1,000 for the United Way of Putnam County from the proceeds.

Brothers of Xi Chapter also participated in the other philanthropies sponsored by the Greek community. Sigs competed in Alpha Chi Omega's dodgeball tournament and played baseball for Pi Phi's philanthropic efforts.

Brother Adam May '16 coordinated a "Dine on the Square" event to help raise money for the United Way of Putnam County. Hundreds of attendees listened to music, ate great local food, and interacted with Greencastle community members in what was a great inaugural effort. Brother May is in his first year as the DePauw Student Government Vice President of Community Relations.

This fall, Sigs will also travel to New Orleans once again with the sisters of Pi Beta Phi. The annual pilgrimage to the "southland" is in conjunction with Habitat for Humanity and is the most substantial and dedicated Greek philanthropy on DePauw's campus.



The scene at Bowman Park for Sigma Chi's Philanthropy event Tigerstock

Sigs Travel the World and Explore New Experiences

A sizable contingent of Xi's junior class (153) is studying abroad this semester. Sigs are making their presences known across the globe. The semester exchanges are afforded to DePauw students through Programs of Distinction or can be pursued independently through academic merit.

Our brothers this semester are studying abroad on three different continents. Brothers Connor Hollensteiner '15 and Joe Hennessy '15 are studying at the same school in London and have even enjoyed some Premier League football games together. Also in Europe, Sigma Chi's Garrett Foley '15 and Henry Binning '15 have thoroughly been engaged during their semester abroad. Brother Foley is studying Spanish in Spain, while brother Binning is in Scotland, studying geology.

We also have brothers in both Africa and Asia. Brother Caleb Haydock '15, a film studies major, has succeeded as a videographer, studying his love of film in beautiful Cape Town, South Africa. His travels have taken him all over the country, and he has interacted with people from all over the globe.

Brother Grant Brown '15 is an economics and Chinese double major at DePauw. He took his passion for language and business to China this semester. Specifically, Grant resides in Chengdu, the capital of a central province named Sichuan. That experience will surely



*Brother Caleb Haydock '15 pictured in
Cape Town, South Africa*

provide brother Brown with an advantage in the international business job market.

We miss these brothers, but we are happy for their success overseas this semester. We look forward to hearing about their unique experiences and hope they wore the White Cross proudly throughout their endeavors.

Parker Schwartz '15

Consul Reviews Semester Highlights to Date

The fall 2013 semester has been full of excitement for Xi Chapter. Between August and October, we have partnered in another successful Tigerstock philanthropy event with Alpha Phi Sorority, hosted one of our most well-attended scholarship dinners in recent history, and had a visit from one of our most distinguished alumni, Brother Bret Baier '92, on Old Gold Weekend.

We would like to thank Brother Baier for his visit and for his continued support of Xi Chapter. For the 2013-2014 academic year, we have once again been recognized as a Bell Sponsored Chapter, which provides additional leadership opportunities to our members and greatly benefits the chapter.

It was our distinct privilege to announce the dedication of the James K. Baker '53 Formal Room during our biannual scholarship din-

ner this fall. Members of the Baker family were in attendance to help us honor one of Xi Chapter's greatest supporters throughout the years and to preserve his remarkable legacy.

Among the philanthropic efforts of our new chairmen, Kevin Bugielski '16, Brother Adam Thacker '15 led our fourth consecutive Habitat for Humanity service trip. This year, the service trip will take us to New Orleans.

As we make a concentrated recruitment effort this fall, we want to recognize Pro Consul Parker Schwartz '15 for reinvigorating the scholarship committee in hopes of improving Xi Chapter's overall GPA and keeping academics at the forefront of our strategic goals.

Johnny McGinness '14
Consul

John Mabry '64 is looking forward to reuniting with **Brent Bundy '64**, **Jim Callane '64**, **William "Buck" Kipe '64**, **Mike Laukitis '64**, **Fred Johnson '64**, and **Mike McClure '64**. He also wishes **John Kellogg '62** and especially **Rick Waldron '63** the best. Wish him the best at 9714 Ensley Lane, Leawood, KS 66206; jrmabry1818@sbcglobal.net.

R. Griffith McDonald '64 transferred ownership of Retirement Income Solutions, his fee-only registered investment advisor, to four junior partners. He is not retiring but is now devoting half his time to family, travel, and fishing. Say hello at 3906 Penberton Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48105; griffmcdonald@gmail.com.

R. Terry Moore '65 has had the pleasure of breaking bread not so long ago with brothers **Joe Sims '62** and **Larry Morrison '65**. He says that they all look as good as ever. Drop him a note at 812 Timber Glen Lane, Ballwin, MO 63021; moorenotes@att.net.

Joseph R. Sims '65 is a CPA for Sims & Riley, LLC, a niche firm that specializes in providing tax and consulting services to commu-

nity banks in Missouri, Kansas, and Colorado. He can be reached at 5200 West 124th Terrace, Leawood, KS 66209; joesims@aol.com.

Mark Ulmschneider '75, **John Easton '73**, and **John Kniesly '73** met for the third Xi Sig Snow Ski-Fest on the slopes of Vail and Beaver Creek resorts in early February. Reports John Kniesly: "Ski-Fest organizers would like more. More snow and more Xi skiers!" So watch for details on the 2014 ski trip, or contact John Kniesly directly at 5339 N. Park Ave. Indianapolis, IN 46220 for details.

Interior Investments is a new company, started by **David Hanger '11**, that specializes in interior furniture and the designing of spaces for everyone, from home owners to Fortune 500 companies. Congratulate David at 3352 N. Kenmore Avenue, Apt. 3, Chicago, IL 60657; dhanger@interiorinvestments.com. He says, "I love hearing about brothers, alumni, and the house."

eye ON XI ALUMNI

XI CHAPTER ALUMNI SEND
THEIR NEWS AND NOTES

deceased

WE REGRET
TO ANNOUNCE
THE DEATHS OF:

James K. Baker '53
July 24, 2013

Robert G. Ward '55
September 22, 2013

Paul W. Decker Jr. '59
February 19, 2013

Remembering James K. Baker '53



year stint serving his country in the US Army.

On July 24, 2013, we lost Brother James K. Baker '53 to the chapter eternal. Jim was a Sigma Chi president who graduated *cum laude* from DePauw. He then moved on to complete his MBA at Harvard, starting that program after a two-

we must recognize what he provided to our chapter and acknowledge how truly fortunate we are because of him.

We are all better people—and the world is a better place—due to Jim's impact and involvement. The world needs more Jim Bakers in it. We strive to reach Jim's level of accomplishments and should encourage each other to do the same. As his daughter so eloquently said, "He successfully completed his journey." Rest comfortably my friend and brother.

Bidding you Godspeed!
In Hoc, Lou Hensley Xi'77

Brother Baker's list of professional accomplishments is long: serving as chairman and CEO for Arvinyl, a global leader in the automotive parts industry; working with Indiana lawmakers to thwart hostile corporate takeovers; and his continuing public service through an appointment to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, which he said "brought many unique experiences," such as speaking of his work in improving the educational system in the United States and of his time playing horseshoes with George H. W. Bush at Camp David.

Jim was also an integral part in Xi Chapter as an alumnus. He is fondly remembered as a great man, leader, mentor, and friend, and truly made a difference in the lives of his brothers. While we are sad and feel unfortunate that Jim is no longer with us physically,

eye ON XI

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