



eye on xi

THE XI CHAPTER OF SIGMA CHI FRATERNITY AT DEPAUW UNIVERSITY

Xi Chapter House Corporation President Report



Mark Driggs '91
Xi Chapter President

Greetings from the Xi Chapter house corporation board. Your fraternity chapter is in great shape due to a lot of hard work and effort from the active chapter and because of the dedication and leadership of fellow alumni (just like you)

who are serving on the Xi Chapter house corporation and foundation boards. You'll hear from and about some of them in this newsletter, but it's important to know that our chapter's current and future successes are dependent on the contributions of time and resources from a devoted group of actives, alumni, and dedicated staff. Keep up the good work!

This past summer we completed significant physical improvements to all the individual rooms on the second and third floors. The old concrete floors were glazed and stained, and new drywall trim and ceilings were installed. Important infrastructure items such as electrical outlets were inspected and repaired, and the HVAC filters and systems were cleaned in each of the resident study rooms. With the previous improvement work that we have completed, such as the shower/bath facilities and the common area floors, it looks like a new house. In fact, it was reported by the active chapter that several visitors recently commented about how nice and clean the fraternity looks. Thanks in large part to your financial support, the house corporation and foundation have invested more than \$300,000 in the chapter house CapEx upgrade improvements over the last several years.

You might know that before the start of each semester, DePauw administrators inspect each fraternity and sorority on campus and provide us with feedback. We passed our fall inspection with flying colors, and the chapter is off to a great start this year. DePauw's President Dr. Lori White outlined her strategic plan for the university highlighting academic renewal, student experience with a focus on leadership, and institutional equity. Our fraternity is well-positioned to meet these challenges. As we all know, Sigma Chi has

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Eternal Friendship and the Bonds of Brotherhood

Many Xi Chapter alumni have continued to keep in touch with one another long after graduation, despite long distances or busy careers. For example, **Bill Tucker '74** of Aiken, South Carolina manages an informal email network of 60 or 70 alumni from the 1970s. You can join this group by sending an email to Bill at: **whtucker@hullfirm.com**.

There is a subgroup of this cluster that meets annually during Indy 500 week at **Glenn Brower's** home in Indianapolis. Be sure to get in touch with Glenn before next Memorial Day at **glenn.brower@knaufinsulation.com**.

Other alumni get together on occasion when they pass by. Recently, **Barry Cesafsky '76**, who resides most of the year in Fort Myers, took the Key West shuttle to visit **Rob Sharpe '75** and visit one of his establishments in Key West. Rob and his wife, Maria, proved to be wonderful hosts



Front Row: John Kniesly, Dave Tanner, Chris Whittet, and Lou Hensley. **Back Row:** Mark Ulmschneider, Steve Erickson, Bill Alberti, Ken Behrendt, Eric Tauer, John Hermeling, Brad Sexauer, Tom King, John Hammond, Kirk Hobbs, Glenn Brower, and Mike Davis.

to Barry and his wife, Marcia.

Each winter/spring, several Xi Sigs gather in the Colorado Rockies for a week of snow skiing and camaraderie. The core group of **John Kniesly '73**, **John Easton '73**, and **Mark Ulmschneider '75** are often joined by other brothers for this annual get-together.

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Rob Sharpe with Barry and Marcia Cesafsky.



Mark Ulmschneider, John Easton, and John Kniesly on the slopes at Beaver Creek.

The Scholarship Fund is LIVE!

The Scholarship Fund is now LIVE and active online. To make a cash gift to the Sigma Chi (Xi Chapter) Scholarship Endowment Fund please log onto: **https://cfgfw.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/create/fund?funit_id=4531**. To make a gift of a Required Minimum Distribution from a tax-qualified retirement fund, or to make a gift of appreciated securities use these Community Foundation of Greater Ft. Wayne contacts for assistance:

Any Donation Questions/DAF Transfers:

Colleen Helmken, Philanthropic Services Assistant at **chelmken@cfgfw.org**.

For Stock Gifts: Heidi Ludwig, COO at **HLudwig@cfgfw.org**.

From the Foundation President



John Kniesly '73
Foundation President

Thanks to each of you who has participated in the Xi Chapter 160th Anniversary Campaign. As of August 29, 2022, Phase I of this campaign had raised over \$350,000. Three important capital expenditure projects for the chapter house

were paid in full by your generosity. Now we can turn our attention toward funding our new Sigma Chi Scholarship Endowment Fund, described below. We are most confident that we will reach our adjusted Phase II goal of a total of \$500,000 over the next three years. Please keep the Xi Chapter of Sigma Chi and its tax-qualified foundation in mind when considering donations to worthy organizations. Our fundraising efforts support our undergraduates' personal and leadership development, helping our active membership make Sigma Chi the pre-eminent fraternity at DePauw University.

Thanks to the efforts of foundation board member **Mark Ulmschneider '75**, the Xi Foundation has established a dedicated endowment scholarship fund. It is intended that this fund will initially augment and eventually replace the current annual Xi Chapter Foundation Inc.'s scholarship allocations. Via this endowment fund, we have tremendous potential to build a significant scholarship endowment that can fund the Xi Chapter scholarship program and help recruit the best and brightest young men to our fraternity chapter. We are developing this endowment in partnership with the Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne, which will match a portion of our annual fundraising efforts. This is truly a win win scenario. You'll be hearing more about the scholarship fund in the coming months.

You may know that we lost several 1970s-era brothers over the last couple of years. Funds have been set up and monies have been donated to Xi Chapter Foundation, Inc. in their memory. Specifically, the Class of 1972 has raised \$25,000 in memory of brothers **Al Martin** and **Bill Geserick**. The Class of 1977 raised \$25,000 in memory of Tom Barker. The Class of 1976 has raised \$30,000 in memory of Dan Saver. If you would like to participate in these or other memorial gifts, be sure to identify your intentions on your gift. If you have any questions, please call me at 317-402-8517.

Please click on the attached form and make your donation to the Xi Chapter Foundation today: <https://pages.donately.com/sigmachixichapter>.

Sophomore Spotlight: Meet Two of Our New Brothers



Henry Cardinale

Hi, I'm **Henry Cardinale**. I'm a sophomore here at DePauw from Culver Lake, New Jersey. I'm serving as the Proconsul of Xi chapter this semester. I joined Sigma Chi because I was looking to find a

healthy balance of fun and work within a fraternity structure, a balance Sigma Chi offered, and I felt a genuine connection to the people who I met here. When I was touring for rush, my friends at Sigma Chi were the first people I met who remembered my name, who waved at me when they saw me on campus and texted me over breaks and holidays just to see how I was doing. That connection brought me here and makes me feel right at home in the house to this day. On campus, I'm a Rector Scholar, and currently plan on majoring in history. After my time here, I am looking into a possible career in museum curation or working as an archivist.



Emiliano Quintanilla

My name is **Emiliano Quintanilla**, and I am from Houston, Texas. I decided to be a member of Xi chapter because of the brothers

that were in the house. They were there for me when I needed someone to talk to and I wanted to surround myself with people who have similar goals as mine. On campus, I am a part of Air Force ROTC, am a first-year RA, on the men's soccer team, in the leadership group of Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and a part of the Diverse Athlete Association. I intend to major in computer science and become an officer in our US Air Force after I graduate from DePauw.

First-Year Mentors

Sophomores **Kevin Dagvadorj** and **William Ragan**, as well junior **Beck Wakefield**, have worked on campus as first-year mentors for incoming freshmen this semester. Mentors are assigned a group of roughly 15 freshman students and work to help them transition smoothly into college and connect them with the DePauw community. Dagvadorj said, "I decided to apply for the first-year mentor program because I wanted to help the freshman as they transitioned into college. Getting to know my mentees and leading them through their first-year experience has been amazing and fun. It is hard at times, but overall worth it to know they are more than prepared for their first year in college."

Soccer

The fraternity currently has 12 members on the DePauw men's soccer team, the most of any fraternity at DePauw. Among them is team captain and senior Jacob Fowler. The team currently has a record of five wins, three losses, and four ties. Among conference opponents, they have one loss and one tie, falling to Wittenberg University and drawing to Wooster.

Internships

The house currently has four juniors who are on various internships across the country. **Emilio Pizana** has spent this fall working with two film

directors in New York City, **Zachary Treitz** and **Caveh Zaheti**. Emilio has spent time editing and archiving film, as well as gaining experience visiting studio sets. **Drew Cosgray** has spent this semester in El Paso, Texas, reporting for KVIA, ABC-7. Drew was quickly offered a full-time reporting position for the remaining portion of the semester and spends his time live on-air reporting stories about the people of El Paso. Some stories Drew has covered are the migrant situation in downtown El Paso as well as a story about the West Nile Virus appearing there. Jake Reed is working in Denver, Colorado at Artesian Partners, a low-middle market private equity firm. Jake focuses on business development, financial analysis, and portfolio management. He even had the chance to start Artesian's first hedge fund with a focus on aerospace and defense (A&D) investments. **Jack Flynn** is currently in Carmel, Indiana this fall working for Valeo Financial Advisors, a fee-only advisory firm. Jack prepares custom deliveries for client meetings to ensure their financial needs are met. He also had the opportunity to work with the alternative investments team TwoPointO, on Pro Forma financial statements, on valuation of multifamily home and industrial developments, and underwrite commercial free real estate deals.

Top GPA

Sigma Chi had the highest GPA of the 12 active fraternities on campus. The chapter scored an average GPA of 3.4.

1991 Class Reunion

The 1991 class recently gathered for a reunion at Grandview Lake in Columbus, Indiana. 18 out of 20 from the original pledge class attended. Brother Matt Kirr hosted his pledge class for an incredible time of storytelling. Tales were told of Derby Days contests, Christmas tree traditions, snow caves, Monon Bell games, and pledge class unity building. Many of the class members hadn't seen others since graduation. "The beautiful thing about it, was that even after 30 years apart, the smiles and friendship clicked instantly, just like we were back at Depauw," reported brother "Kirr Dog." Attendees included **Chris Gleason, Jim Browne, Matt Kirr, Mark Driggs, Rick Ashton,**



Roy Ferguson, Chris Kosobud, Steve Leppard, John Hurley, Ted McMullen, Chris Magee, Jon Stutz, Chris Edwards, Graham Galander, Scott Rink, Jeff Rose, Craig Westrick, and Jason Pugh.

Chapter Advisor Report



Brad Sexauer '73
Xi Chapter Advisor

Our chapter is in a very good place right now. We just received our third consecutive Peterson Award. Xi Chapter was one of only three Indiana chapters to receive this prestigious honor. You may know that the J. Dwight Peterson Significant Chapter Award is Sigma Chi's highest honor for undergraduate chapters, recognizing those chapters that earn high marks in the areas of financial stability and recruitment, chapter and member reputation, and ritual comprehension and performance.

I am also most pleased to report that Xi Chapter had the highest fraternity grade point average this past spring with a 3.4 GPA. This was almost half a point higher than the next fraternity, an astounding achievement! This fall the Xi Chapter Foundation will again recognize individual

academic achievement that contributed to the high house wide GPA at Xi's semiannual scholarship dinner. It's always fun to hand out checks!

This past summer I attended Foundational Leadership Mentor training held in conjunction with the fraternity's annual summer workshop. Moving forward, each Sigma Chi chapter will have a Foundational Leadership Mentor who will work with the Magister and Kustos to educate each new pledge class. I will initially be filling that role, followed by another Xi alum in a couple of years.

And finally, I want to emphasize the importance of rush at Xi Chapter. A successful rush has been a vital factor in our recent Peterson Award success and is the lifeblood of the chapter. With smaller numbers of freshmen men participating in formal rush at DePauw, it will be increasingly important that alumni help out if you can. Your recommendation and encouragement of incoming freshmen or potential Xi pledges would be greatly appreciated.



House Corporation Members

Mark Driggs '91
President

Jon Stutz '91
Vice President

Elliott Atkinson '19
Secretary

Brendan Belz '10
Treasurer

Barry Cesafsky '76
Board Member

Mike Davis '74
Board Member

John Marshall '93
Board Member

Lou Hensley '77
Emeritus

Brad Sexauer '73
Chapter Advisor



Foundation Board Members

John Kniesly '73
President

Barry Cesafsky '76
Vice President

Lou Hensley '77
Treasurer

Tom Nowlin '01
Secretary

James Browne '91
Board Member

Mark Driggs '91
Board Member

Jack Payne '68
Board Member

Greg Sissel '94
Board Member

Mark Ulmschneider '75
Board Member

Mike Smith '70
Emeritus

Xi Scholarship and Capital Improvement Donations



The Xi House Corporation and Foundation recently initiated a fundraising campaign for the active chapter. If you haven't seen this video, check out pictures of the old Ski Lodge from the late '80s, cameo appearances, and alumni interviews. Here is the YouTube link: www.youtube.com/watch?v=YuHEZLdqks0 or just search "Xi Chapter of Sigma Chi Young Alumni Promo" on YouTube. The entertainment value is worth your time!



**Chapter
Eternal**

WE REGRET
TO ANNOUNCE
THE DEATHS OF:

Robert Barnes '61
April 26, 2019

Charles Curtis '57
January 3, 2021

Robert Darnall '60
October 19, 2021

Phillip Davis '53
May 31, 2020

Donald Garlinger '56
December 5, 2021

Thomas Hunter '47
February 11, 2020

William Kipe '64
March 25, 2021

David Kluever '80
May 20, 2020

James Konkle '70
November 15, 2019

Paul Lee Jr. '52
March 17, 2019

Henry Lewis '50
November 28, 2019

Murray Miller '52
November 5, 2019

George Murrell '47
June 17, 2021

Jerry Rose '57
January 20, 2021

Fred Smith III '65
October 31, 2020

Robert Smith '51
March 26, 2020

Michael Street '65
December 8, 2021

Kenneth Todd '60
January 20, 2021

Horace Tolle '55
October 11, 2019

Joshua Trewartha '18
October 8, 2022

John Wittich '44
August 2, 2019

Philip Atteberry '70
September 22, 2002

Thomas Barker '77
January 18, 2020

Walter Tinsley '48
June 18, 2021

Milton Weber '35
August 2, 2001

Norman Thomas '51
March 3, 2021

Daniel Saver '76
April 14, 2022



eye on xi alumni

XI CHAPTER ALUMNI SEND THEIR NEWS AND NOTES

I Am a Xi Sig Video '85-'95

Sigs Win! '80s and '90s alumni compiled cameos with old rush slide show pictures to make a fundraising video. Check out this YouTube link and catch up with brothers from your era. www.youtube.com/watch?v=Em0Exs-RkAqQ or search on YouTube for "Xi Chapter of Sigma Chi '85-'95 Classes Fundraiser Promo" to watch the video. "It's awesome not only to see faces from the past, but how family traditions are built at Xi," said **Chuck Sadler '87**. Sadler appears in the video along with his younger brother,

Dave Sadler '94. "We had excellent participation for cameos from this era. I loved seeing the Stutz tradition carry on from Jay and Jon, down to **Jaxon Stutz**, a current Xi active." **Charles Compton '89** reminds us that, "our



fundraising and support gives new generations of Xi brothers the chance to live and learn the same experiences we did." Special cameos by Farmer Ted (**Rick Ashton '91**) and The Mom Whitt Cup appear in the video. Join us, won't you?!

Recruitment

The pandemic lowered Greek enrollment at the school two years ago, so the house welcomed a relatively large group of 18 new brothers last spring. Junior Recruitment Chair **Nick Mourouzis** reflected on last year's rush process and spoke on how recruitment has looked so far this school year. "The past class was a successful recruitment in quality and quantity and the new members are well integrated at the Xi," Nick said. "The rush process is underway this fall in preparation for formal rush at the

beginning of the spring semester. The chapter has already hosted several recruitment events this fall including a cookout, a brother meet and greet, and has hosted first years for NFL Sunday night action. The chapter has several more events planned for this semester, such as a flag football event and a Monday Night Football pizza party later this month. We are looking forward to continuing to meet with first years and showing them what the Xi is all about."

Xi Talks – Alumni Interviews



The Xi Foundation Board initiated a new program to engage the active chapter with a program called Xi Talks. **James "Downtown" Browne '91** organizes the events and brings two or three accomplished alumni to visit the

house and share their stories. The full active chapter attends, listens to the presentations, shares contact information, and engages in meet and greet sessions with the alumni.

"We wanted to create a better connection with our actives," said Foundation Board President, **John Kniesly '73**. Driggs explained that "these Xi

Talk interviews do a few things. First, they show the actives we care about their academic and professional futures with networking opportunities. Second, they're designed to provide encouragement during academic stress and the anxiety of finding a job. Also, it's a benefit for rush 'marketing' and promoting good relations with the university. Other people on campus get to see the positive aspects of what Sigma Chi provides."

Speakers so far have included a urologist, a health-care mergers and acquisitions professional, a PGA director of golf, a franchise owner and CEO, and an orthodontist. Each of the speakers shared short biographies of their time at Depauw and following career paths. The Xi Talks are video streamed on Facebook Live. You can still watch them on the XiSigs Facebook page: www.facebook.com/depauwsigs. Join us, won't you?!

President Report

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always stressed leadership. We still do. Moreover, Xi Chapter is one of the most diverse and inclusive houses on campus.

We had several important events this past spring. In March we actually held two initiation ceremonies due to some scheduling conflicts. Then on March 14, the chapter hosted several alumni participants for Xi Talks, a lively discussion with several alumni about their professional careers and the ongoing importance and influence of their connections to Sigma Chi. The annual Xi Chapter Scholarship Dinner was held on March 22 when alumni foundation board members John Kniesly and Lou Hensley and Chapter Advisor Brad Sexauer handed out some \$6,000 in scholarship checks. Lastly, because of the pandemic, DPU Alumni Weekends were deferred in recent years; so, two alumni reunions were held in June, and the chapter participated by hosting Xi alumni during both of these events.

Please remember that the Xi Chapter Foundation, Inc., is a 501(c)(3) entity supported by alumni donations. We continue to raise needed funds for scholarships and for continued maintenance and upgrades to the chapter house. Overall, Sigma Chi at DePauw is in a strong leadership and financial position. Importantly, the undergraduate and alumni members continue to distinguish themselves on campus and in their personal and professional pursuits. Nevertheless, the ongoing engagement, support, and involvement of alumni like you are important for our continued success. Please continue to follow your alumni chapter and stay engaged. Feel free to call me anytime. I can be reached at mark.driggs@legacymarketing.com or 312-804-8617.

Bonds of Brotherhood

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Marcia and Barry Cesafsky with Mara and Mike Davis at Old Colonial Inn.

Xi alumni from Chicago and the northern half of Indiana sometimes visit **Mike Davis '74** at his Old Colonial Inn Restaurant in Kentland, Indiana. Great food and fine dining.