



eye on xi

THE XI CHAPTER OF SIGMA CHI FRATERNITY AT DEPAUW UNIVERSITY

A Toast to Tradition: Steve Weaver '76 and the Mount Nittany Vineyard



Steve and Linda Weaver

The Xi Chapter Foundation is honored to recognize **Steve Weaver '76** as a distinguished supporter of our mission. Steve and his wife Linda embody the spirit of Sigma Chi in their remarkable success as owners of the renowned Mount Nittany Vineyard and Winery. Nestled in the heart of Central Pennsylvania and just six miles from Beaver Stadium, home of the Penn State Nittany Lions, the vineyard has flourished under their care for over 25 years.

Taking over the business founded by Linda's parents, they have transformed

Mount Nittany into a premier destination, producing award-winning wines in their state-of-the-art facility. The winery boasts a full-service wine bar, an event space ideal for larger gatherings, and a charming five-bedroom lodge for overnight stays. Spread across 60 acres on the slopes of Mount Nittany, the vineyard benefits from its altitude, southern exposure, and excellent air drainage, cultivating six varieties of grapes in a thriving six-acre vineyard. Steve extends a warm invitation to explore their website, www.mtnittanywinery.com, and visit the vineyard in person. A favorite among Penn State's Sigma Chis, Mount Nittany is the perfect venue for a Xi Chapter pledge class reunion or a Big Ten game weekend, conveniently located just four hours from New York, five from Columbus, and eight from Indianapolis. With its picturesque setting, professional staff, and exceptional wine selection, this idyllic retreat is a must-visit for any wine enthusiast.



Mount Nittany Vineyard and Winery

Beyond their success in the vineyard, Steve and Linda have been steadfast supporters of the Xi Chapter Foundation, contributing generously to ensure future generations of Sigma Chis benefit from the same opportunities. Steve's example reminds us all of the importance of paying it forward. As you consider your own legacy, remember the Xi Chapter Foundation; and be sure to experience the unique charm of Mount Nittany Vineyard and Winery the next time you're in the area.

The Rich House



Derek Empie '95
*Sigma Chi Xi Chapter House
Corporation President*

My wife Amber ('94) and I spend a lot of time at DePauw these days since our three kids are currently students: junior Carson, a Sigma Chi; sophomore Adisyn, an Alpha Phi; and sophomore Aubree, a Kappa Kappa Gamma.

Aubree is a goalkeeper for the women's soccer team, and we attend every home game in the fall with our golden

retriever, "Goldie." Goldie is a magnet for college students who frequently come over to greet her when they are entering or leaving the game. It's a wonderful opportunity for us to talk with students, connect with this younger generation, and learn about their experiences at DePauw.

At a recent home game, a large group of guys from another fraternity asked to pet Goldie. We had a great conversation with these young men. I told one of the guys that I was the house corporation president for Sigma Chi, and he responded, "Oh, the rich house." His comment took me by surprise, so I asked him what he meant. He explained that his perception, as well as that of others on campus, is that Sigma Chi is a fraternity that invests a lot of money into the house to make improvements and keep the house up-to-date.

After thinking more about this, I realized his description of Sigma Chi as the "rich house" applies in so many ways. For instance, the Sigma Chi House Corporation has financially invested in many physical improvements. In recent years, we replaced the first floor and basement HVAC system (using the services of our brother **Pete Huber '93**), repainted most areas of the house, added a social and entertainment area adjacent to the dining room with a bar and multiple big screen TVs, upgraded the flooring on the second and third floors, replaced drywall and ceilings in individual rooms, and renovated the common bathrooms. Additional planned upgrades include installing HVAC on the second and third floors, resurfacing the stairwells, replacing furnishings, and updating the Runkle Room (basement) into a more inviting area for the guys to hang out, play

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Alex Rich (senior) on his study abroad in Japan.



Raiden Miyamoto (junior), Logan Gleason (junior), and Wenkang "Blake" Yu (sophomore) during the auction for Parent's Weekend.



Brothers and parents participating in the auction during Parent's Weekend.

Xi Chapter Updates

Involvement

This year, the chapter has a wide net of involvement around campus. There are 54 active members. Some of the activities that members are involved in include: the Management Fellows Program (13), the men's swim team (6), the men's soccer team (6), the men's lacrosse team (2), the first-year mentor program (8), and hosts of the WGRE radio station (7).

James's Job

One of our active members, James Steindl, has an "office" set up in the chapter house's boardroom. He's working this semester as an actuarial analyst: property and casualty insurance for Central Mutual Insurance Company. The company is an insurance carrier with a little over \$1 billion in premiums in over 20 states, and it is headquartered in Van Wert, Ohio. James has been working for them remotely. He said that his job and actuaries in general "use vast amounts of data, predictive analytics, and statistics to provide the fundamental pricing of insurance policies." The active members in the house are proud of James's industry and for already putting his education to good use before graduation.

Internships

Two of the chapter's active members are on internships for the Management Fellows Program. **Grant Forrer**, a junior, is a private equity analyst intern at Founders Mosaic Partners in Indianapolis. He said that during his internship he has "been working on daily business operations such as sales or reporting, along with using forecasting models to analyze data." Outside of work, he has been living on Butler's campus and has been learning how to DJ. **Hamza Shahzad**, also a junior, is working as a business development intern at Fusion Education Group in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He is looking forward to "dive deeper into market research, feasibility studies, and strategic decision-making" this semester.

Study Abroad

Senior **Alex Rich** is currently studying abroad at Kansai Gaidai in Hirakata, Osaka, Japan. He is enrolled in two Japanese courses and two East Asian political science courses. So far, he has been to Tokyo, the Osaka Castle, and Dotombori, which Alex says is "a really cool food district with tons of nightlife." Alex has also planned other activities, such as going to South Korea and Shanghai. As an East Asian Studies major, it is great that he has had the chance to study in his element and practically apply his education at DePauw! We are looking forward to welcoming him back in the spring and hearing more about his experiences.

Derby Days & Other Philanthropy

The house has a couple of philanthropy events planned this year. One of them is done in cooperation with the sorority Alpha Phi and is known as Tiger Stock. Tiger Stock raises money to invest in a project for the local Greencastle area. Another philanthropy event the active members have been participating in in recent years is Delta Gamma's Anchor Splash. This event raises funds for Delta Gamma's foundation, Service for Sight, to provide assistance to the visually impaired. Anchor Splash is capped off with a competition between other Greek organizations in several different aquatic competitions. On the Xi Chapter home front, there are larger plans in the works for this year's Huntsman Challenge. The Huntsman Challenge, also known as Derby Days, is a philanthropic event held by many Sigma Chi chapters to support the effort to end cancer. Last year, the Xi Chapter raised \$12,000, which exceeded our goal of \$10,000, but we are looking at ways to increase that amount. To incentivize the completion of this goal, the Xi Chapter is competing against the Delta Chi Chapter of Sigma Chi at Wabash College to raise the most money for Huntsman. The winning chapter will receive a new tailgate set!

Rush

The rush team this year has hit the ground running with many events planned throughout the semester. So far, the house has hosted freshmen for many football games, a cookout while watching the LSU vs. USC game, a die tournament, and s'mores outside by our fire pit. There are additional events planned for rush opportunities later in the semester, including tailgates for men's soccer games and the 130th Monon Bell game, a paintball outing, and a Pacers game. Overall, the rush team has been doing a great job so far, and the active members of the house are excited to bring in a new pledge class in the spring.

Little 5 Results

The 2024 spring semester was the first time in years that Sigma Chi competed in the Little 5: Tour DePauw Race. Our team consisted of Xi legacy **Johnny Marshall** (then a freshman, now a sophomore), **Ethan Williams** (then a sophomore, now a junior), and **Eric Thompson '24** (then a senior). These brothers more than exceeded expectations. Ethan won the men's sprints, with Johnny finishing in the top four. During the actual 25-lap race, Johnny was the first DePauw student to finish. The overall competition resulted in a second-place showing for Sigma Chi. All of the active brothers were overjoyed by the results and the effort put in by our brothers. It's safe to say we can't wait to build upon that success next spring.



Active brothers during a tailgate for Family Weekend.



Little 5 team, from left to right, Ethan Williams, Johnny Marshall, and Eric Thompson.



Johnny Marshall having a fun time while racing.



Brother Will Ragan (senior) getting "pied" during a joint philanthropy event, Tiger Stock, with Alpha Phi.



Brothers Nick Pease (senior) and Alec McCarty (senior) after being "pied".

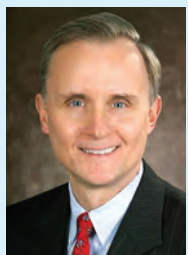


Brothers at our philanthropy event, Tiger Stock, with Alpha Phi.



Brothers and potential new members during the paintball rush event.

Chapter Advisor Report



Brad Sexauer '73
Xi Chapter Advisor

The spring 2024 semester and the following summer finished strong for Xi Chapter. At the Krach Transformational Leaders Workshop, **Johnny Marshall** and **Carson Carpenter** accepted a Peterson Significant Chapter Award on behalf of Xi Chapter, its fourth in the past five years. Based on the scoring, Xi is in the top 20% of all 244 active chapters across the Fraternity. Xi brothers **Eddie Loucka**, **Carson Carpenter**, and **Grant Forrer** were selected and attended the Horizons Huntsman Leadership Summit in Park City, Utah. This weeklong workshop is the Fraternity's premier leadership development program and the selection process is extremely competitive. Academically, Xi finished the spring semester with a 3.41 GPA, good for #2 among the 10 IFC fraternities at DePauw. The chapter has finished first or second for the past five semesters.

The fall semester started smoothly at Xi Chapter, with 46 live-ins out of a capacity of 48. Formal recruitment isn't until January 2025, but Xi has a great head start by hosting numerous recruitment events at the chapter house for freshman men. In November, the chapter is hosting a recruitment event at a Pacers game at Gainbridge Fieldhouse in downtown Indy. The goal is to have a sizable number of potential pledges identified prior to formal recruitment. The fall semester Scholarship Dinner was held on October 10 at the chapter house. Several DePauw faculty and staff joined the Xi Chapter Foundation in recognizing outstanding academic achievement and improvement by our undergraduate brothers. This is always a great evening; the energy in the dining room is palpable, and the DePauw representatives in attendance always leave with a very positive impression of Xi Chapter.

With such a strong start to the 2024–2025 academic year, I anticipate another great year for Xi Chapter. Another Peterson Award is certainly a goal! Formal recruitment is scheduled for January 23–25, 2025, followed by initiation on Saturday, March 1, 2025. The chapter always welcomes alumni to attend initiation, and doing so really helps our Peterson application.

I'll close by saying that the active relationship between undergrads and alumni is very strong, and it's paying dividends to Xi Chapter. From capital improvements to the chapter house to funding a \$250,000 endowment to support scholarships, alumni are stepping up to support Xi Chapter. I believe that is due to the mutual support and respect that has developed between the active chapter and alumni. This is something we should continue to encourage because it is making Xi Chapter the gold standard among fraternities at DePauw and all Sigma Chi chapters across the Fraternity.

In hoc.....

Brad Sexauer '73

Chapter Advisor

Xi Chapter of Sigma Chi

Sigma Chi: A Family Tradition

by Logan Gleason '26 and Chris Gleason '91

Logan

Applying to DePauw was a decision I almost did not make. When looking into schools, I was determined to pursue a degree in mechanical engineering and DePauw was not on my radar. After months of narrowing down my list and sending in my final applications, my father asked me why not apply to DePauw? I must admit that I was initially completely uninterested. I brushed it off as my dad missing his alma mater, and who's heard of Greencastle, anyway? I decided to humor him, so I wrote my application during my lunch period on the very last day that submissions were accepted. When touring campuses, I was rather unimpressed by most, and even a little intimidated by some of the bigger schools since I was coming from a school of 1,500. DePauw, on the other hand, felt manageable and welcoming. I had the opportunity to sit down with various professors on my initial tour, wherein I learned about the school's 3+2 program in partnership with Washington University and Columbia. A chance to pursue an engineering degree at one of these universities seemed like something that would be out of my reach. With almost guaranteed admission and greatly discounted tuition, this program started to seem too good to pass up.

Thanks in part to the actives I met on my visit, and the dedicated Admissions Counselor Ben Hatchett '17 (Xi), I made my decision. My choice during rush, however, was not as easy. My freshman-year roommate and good friend was a member of the tennis

team, leading me to spend most of my first semester with them. Because of that, I spent most of my time at other fraternities and only came to Sigma Chi for rush events. My dad took a lot of interest in my rush process and told me he would fully support me if I wanted to go to a different house.

After my first semester, I spent the winter term on an internship with Xi Roy Ferguson '91. During this time away from campus, I was able to clear my head and think about what I wanted to get out of rush. I felt some of the other houses did not have my best interest in mind, and there were members I would not be proud to call my brother. On the other hand, Sigma Chi had no shortage of great people. The brothers seemed driven and did not fall into cliques. I saw all the life-long friends my dad had made at Xi Chapter and heard many great stories. On the last day of formal rush, my decision was made: Sigma Chi was the house where I could succeed. However, on bid night, I started to feel I made the wrong choice. All of my friends had gone elsewhere, and I hardly knew anyone in my pledge class. My dad reassured me to give it a chance; it was the best advice I could have received. Over the following five weeks of pledgship, those strangers became some of my closest friends.

Once bought in, I never looked back. The brothers in my pledge class, those older and those younger, are sure to be my friends for life. In my sophomore year, I took on the role of tribune, and as a junior, I am magister, a position I have desired since initiation. If I can give a future pledge class an experience



In September, most members of the class of 1991 gathered at Sweetwater Lake in Nineveh, Indiana, for their annual summer outing. This year's event was hosted by Graham Glander and Scott Rink at their homes, which are just across the lake from one another. The event also featured guest appearances from Chad Royer '92 and Patrick Huse '94.

as great as mine was, I will have done my duty to the house. The Xi Chapter of Sigma Chi is a house full of great men with bright futures ahead, and I'm sure that joining was not only one of the best decisions I have made at DePauw, but that I will make in life.

Chris

I came to the cornfields of Indiana in the fall of 1987 from Marion, Massachusetts, on the edge of Cape Cod, where I went to boarding school at Tabor Academy. DePauw University ended up on my radar for several reasons. My mother, Dorothy, had attended DePauw for two years before transferring to the University of Michigan. Gary Lemon, who founded the Management Fellow Program, came to Tabor to recruit for DePauw as well as for his nascent business program. Although I found the program design interesting, I frankly didn't put too much thought into the transition from my picturesque high school experience on the ocean to Greencastle in the middle of Indiana. I am glad that I made that decision because my life is so richer because of it.

My orientation leader, Matt Pate, was an '89 Sigma Chi. My pledge brother Roy Ferguson was also in my orientation group. I didn't know then that we would raise our eight children on the shore of Lake Michigan, have many adventures across the world over 30 years of friendship, or that our sons would become best friends on our many ski trips out west. I was close with many '89s who joined us on those ski trips and other adventures. Both of my boys grew up with my Sigma Chi brothers in their lives and witnessed the deep bonds we all shared.

I hadn't thought about DePauw, nor visited the campus, in close to 20 years ahead of the 30-year reunion in 2021. Despite my great

experience, I didn't push nor expect my boys to consider DePauw. Logan was planning to apply to engineering programs. We visited many schools during a great ski trip in the spring of 2022. Along that journey, we didn't discuss DePauw, whose pre-engineering program I had long forgotten. I was definitely surprised when Logan decided to apply to DePauw. After he applied, we visited campus for a tour in April.

During our tour, it struck me that so much has changed at DePauw since that fall in 1987. There are almost too many new buildings to name. The rock quarry is now the Nature Park. Among the many changes, the downtown area of Greencastle stands out as one of the most significant, with many new restaurants, shops, and places to stay. During that tour, we stopped by Sigma Chi to meet some of the brothers and take a tour of the house. The house has gone through many changes, some better than others. When I was living in the house, I had the good fortune to live in Room One, a great hideout by the back stairwell that has sadly been replaced with a storage room. The second-floor party room was one that I found very creative, considering showers used to be there.

I was definitely pleased when Logan decided to attend DePauw. He told me mid-fall that he was going to go through winter rush and that Sigma Chi was one of his top houses. I was really excited for Logan to join Sigma Chi and was very proud to pin the White Cross on his chest at his initiation. In the years since then, I have spent a lot of time with my '91 pledge brothers both on campus and at Brother Kirr's, Hurley's, Glander's, and Rink's lake houses. I look forward to hearing stories of Logan's adventures with his Sigma Chi brothers in the years to come. In Hoc .



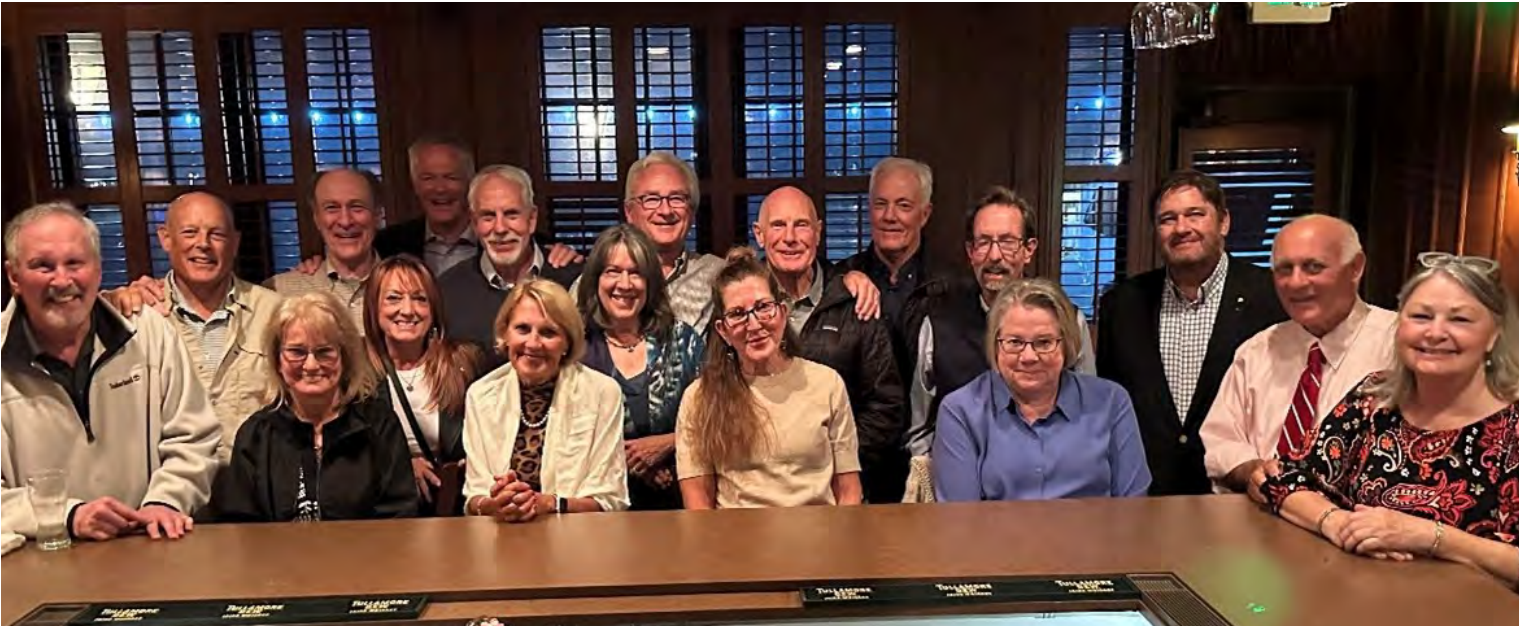
House Corporation Members

Derek Empie '95 <i>President</i>	Barry Cesafsky '76 <i>Secretary</i>	Mike Davis '74 <i>Board Member</i>
John Marshall '93 <i>Vice President</i>	Mark Driggs '91 <i>Immediate Past President & Board Member</i>	Elliott Atkinson '19 <i>Board Member</i>
Brendan Belz '10 <i>Treasurer</i>	Brad Sexauer '73 <i>Chapter Advisor</i>	Lou Hensley '77 <i>Emeritus</i>



Foundation Board Members

Mark Ulmschneider '75 <i>President</i>	Mark Driggs '91 <i>Secretary</i>	Greg Sissel '94 <i>Board Member</i>
Barry Cesafsky '76 <i>Vice President</i>	Eric Nelson '01 <i>Board Member</i>	Mike Smith '70 <i>Emeritus</i>
John Kniesly '73 <i>Treasurer</i>	James Browne '91 <i>Board Member</i>	Lou Hensley '77 <i>Emeritus</i>
	Peter Huber '93 <i>Board Member</i>	



There was a fun gathering of 1970s-era alumni and friends on Saturday, October 19, at the Old Colonial Inn restaurant in Kentland, Indiana.
Back Row: Ken Behrendt, Steve Erickson, Tom King, Glenn Brower, Eric Tauer, Dale Kramer, John Kniesly, Bill Busch, Dave Harrison, Barry Cesafsky, and Mike Davis.
Front Row: Gloria Barger, Kate Tauer, Sara Rees, Kathy Kramer, Angelia Kniesly, Marcia Cesafsky, and Mara Davis.



Rich House

(continued from page one)

cards, and watch sports and entertainment.

Aside from these obvious physical improvements, our Xi Chapter is also rich with academic excellence, ranking #1 or #2 among the ten fraternities on campus. In the spring 2024 semester, Xi finished with the second-highest GPA among fraternities with a 3.41 GPA, which is higher than the all-university average. Sigma Chi also has 13 brothers in the Management Fellows Program, more than any other fraternity on campus.

Sigma Chi is rich with tradition. We are committed to preserving our rituals and history while actively participating on DePauw's campus. The Xi Chapter brought back our Derby Days philanthropy, which had gone away when I was on campus. After an absence due primarily to COVID, this current group of Sigma Chis returned to race in Little 5 last spring, with **Johnny Marshall '27** finishing second in the men's team race and earning the top DePauw Student Racer. Additionally, Xi has maintained an athletic presence at DPU, with members of the house participating in swim, lacrosse, soccer, and rugby.

Finally, our Xi Chapter is also very rich with alumni participation and support. As highlighted in **Mark Ulmschneider's '75** foundation report, Mark and **John Kniesly '73** have done an amazing job building an endowed scholarship fund. The speed with which they've been able to fund the foundation is impressive. Their work is a testament to their passion for the Xi Chapter and the dedication our alumni have shown by staying connected to the Xi Chapter.

Each semester, **Jim Browne '91** hosts an event known as "Xi Talks," where alumni come back to the house and present to the active chapter members about their time at DePauw and provide insights into their career path. I came back in the spring to share my story, and it was great to hear the stories of other alumni. The guys in the house were fully engaged and asked a lot of great questions.

As I reflect upon what I see going on at Sigma Chi, I can confidently confirm that the Xi Chapter truly is the "rich house"!

In Hoc Signo Vincas,

Derek Empie '95

Sigma Chi Xi Chapter House Corporation
President

Xi Chapter Foundation President Report



Mark Ulmschneider '75
Foundation President

Your foundation has been putting your generous donations to work over the past year. A portion of our funds have been directed toward essential capital projects to maintain and improve our chapter house. Recently, we replaced basement tiles, upgraded the stairwell flooring, and painted several rooms and common areas. We also undertook a significant HVAC project, rebuilding air conditioners for both the basement Runkle Room and the main floor, at a total cost of around \$130,000, with the foundation contributing to the expense. Looking ahead, we plan to support HVAC improvements for the upper two floors over the next year or two, with projected costs of \$150,000 per floor. While our house may be showing its age, it remains in excellent condition, thanks to the ongoing efforts of the house corporation and the foundation. It's a major investment, but we're proud to offer one of the most desirable living locations on campus.

Our Xi Foundation Scholarship Program continues to be a point of pride. At the most recent Scholarship Dinner, Xi Chapter awarded over \$6,000 in scholarships in front of DePauw President Dr. Lori White, several deans, and more than a dozen faculty members. Our commitment to supporting the education of our young men is clear, and the word is spreading. We've set an ambitious five-year goal of raising \$250,000 for the Scholarship Fund, and after just over two years, we've already reached two-thirds of that goal! It's an incredible accomplishment, but the final stretch is often the hardest. Your contributions now are more important than ever. Remember, every year we hit our scholarship fund target, our philanthropic partner, the Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne, matches our effort with a \$10,000 grant. Let's ensure we meet our goal again this year!

In addition to the Scholarship Endowment, we are excited to announce a new foundation initiative: the Brothers Helping Brothers Fund. This temporary fund will offer grants of up to \$500 to help active members cover unexpected expenses, with the goal of assisting 15 to 20 brothers annually. Former Consul and newly-appointed Foundation Board Member Andy Wessman will lead the selection committee, and we are open to naming the fund after any brother willing to fully fund it: an estimated \$10,000 per year. If you're interested in supporting this meaningful, need-based initiative, please reach out to me directly.

Finally, I'd like to share a personal experience from this spring's Xi chapter initiation. Attending the investiture was a deeply moving experience for me. Even at age 71, it had the same profound impact as it did when I first participated at 19. With that in mind, we've created an exclusive opportunity for our top donors this year: 10 reserved seats at the spring initiation. These will be prioritized for alumni who haven't attended in recent years, offering a special chance to relive this powerful ceremony. Make a donation, and we'll reserve a place for you.

Use the QR code below to donate or visit:
pages.donately.com/sigmachixichapter.



Chapter
Eternal

WE REGRET TO ANNOUNCE
THESE DEATHS

Duane A Patterson '53

April 10, 2024

Larry W. Schumacher '54

October 1, 2023

Michael J. Garber '64

October 18, 2023

William Sykes Bailey '75

May 7, 2023