



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

Dear Sigma Chi Xi Chapter Alumni:

I hope this message finds you well. It is my pleasure to provide you with the latest updates on the happenings with the Sigma Chi at DePauw House Corporation.

Our house corporation, with input from the active chapter, continues to meet monthly to discuss chapter news, events, and facility status. Historically, we have invested between \$75K–\$100K annually in capital improvements, thanks to the support of our active alumni base and the revenue generated from having the chapter house at or near full capacity of 48.

Sigma Chi at DePauw is more than just a place for our members to live; it is a lifelong commitment. We are proud to have four alumni brothers serving on DePauw's board of trustees, seven on our house corporation board, and nine on our foundation board, a 501(c)(3). Together, we view our involvement with DePauw and Sigma Chi as a lifelong benefit and commitment. Derek Empie '95 has joined the house corporation board, and Barry Cesafsky '76 has been re-elected to a new three-year term.

Chapter Achievements and Activities

House maintenance has been a priority. Recent work has included cleaning and repairing HVAC units, installing a compressor, repairing the sprinkler system and passing fire inspections. There has been very positive feedback from alumni regarding the physical condition of the house.

An area near the dining room and patio known as the "airport lounge," has been converted into a modern bar and TV area. It looks great and the reviews have been fantastic. Planned improvements for summer of 2024 include new flooring in stairwells, restained/repainted room doors, and additional furnishings. A wooden carving of the Sigma Chi crest is under construction and will be displayed in the chapter house. More to come on this.

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Sigma Chi: A Family Tradition

The saying goes, "Everything old is new again" or in the Xi Chapter's case, "Young again," as there are three legacies roaming the halls of Sigma Chi: **Carson Empie, '26** (son of **Derek Empie '95**); **Logan Gleason '26** (son of **Chris Gleason '91**); and **Johnny Marshall '27** (son of **John Marshall '93**). Over the next few newsletters, we'll hear from both fathers and sons and get their perspectives on what Sigma Chi means to them. First up, Carson and Derek Empie.

Carson: I have loved my experience at DePauw so far, and I have the Xi Chapter of Sigma Chi and my brothers to thank for much of that. In the house, I currently serve the roles of tribune and ritual chair. While I am enjoying my time at DePauw and Sigma Chi, DePauw was not initially on my list of colleges to apply to!

Growing up, I frequently visited DePauw because my parents are alumni. On a visit to DePauw my sophomore year of high school, I recall feeling like the campus was too small for me. Coming from Carmel High School, where the student population exceeds 5,000, I was mainly interested in larger colleges. However, as an afterthought, I applied to DePauw.

When I was accepted into DePauw, I was recommended by admissions to apply for the Management Fellows and Honors Scholar Programs. As I began to learn more about the programs DePauw had to offer, it started to move up on my college list. After talking

to faculty on trips to campus, I also realized that the University's smaller size allowed for closer connections to professors. When I was accepted into both the Management Fellows and Honors Scholar Programs, my incentive to go to DePauw increased. I ended up choosing the Management Fellows Program as I had heard from my parents that the program was renowned and successful in preparing students for their future careers. Also, I really liked how I could be both a biochemistry major on the pre-med track while also being a Management Fellow. Being able to pursue both business and medicine was truly what won me over to DePauw.

I knew I wanted to join the Greek community. I went to the Glow Greek event my first weekend on campus to get to meet the guys in fraternities. I knew my dad was a Sigma Chi, so I made sure to connect with the Sigma Chis I met. I was invited over to the house the next night to get to know more brothers. However, I split my time between Sigma Chi and other fraternities during my first semester.

When I returned home for fall break, my dad asked about my thoughts on rush, and I told him I was leaning toward another fraternity. He did not try to influence my decision on choosing a fraternity as he encouraged me to find the place that was right for me. Shortly after fall break, my mind was changed as I had started to enjoy my time at Sigma Chi more, with both the brothers in the house and also with many of the freshmen I would see at rush events, as most of them were part of my "friend group."

I was practically all-in on Sigma Chi after they had a group of us over for a Thanksgiving meal, where for the first time I felt like I truly got to see what brotherhood was all about. By winter break, my freshman friend group was basically unanimous in our choice, and that choice was Sigma Chi. While having my friends pledge Sigma Chi with me was a plus, at the end of the day, my main reason for joining the fraternity was brothers and the values they upheld.

Ultimately, I chose Sigma Chi because the guys in the house represented the qualities I want to emulate in myself such as their drive and determination, their thoughtfulness, their sense of humor, they are well put together, and everyone was easy to get along with and understanding. The characteristics exhibited by the men in the house mimic many of the qualities I admire about my dad. Joining Sigma Chi has been the best decision I've made at DePauw, and I'm excited that my dad will be involved in the house and will be a part of my experience as a member of Sigma Chi.

Derek: While my wife Amber and I are both DePauw
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Flags are Flying

Several members of the class of 1991 gathered this past summer at Lake Okoboji, Iowa, for some great brotherhood, boating, and bourbon.



Pictured from left to right: John Hurley '91, Roy Ferguson '91, Graham Glander '91, Chris Gleason '91, Mark Driggs '91, Matt Kirt '91, and Ted McMullen '91.



Xi Chapter alumnus Chris Gleason '91 and his son, active member Logan Gleason '26.



The Fall 2023 Xi Alumni Dinner at the Colonial Inn, Kentland, IN, hosted by Mike and Mara Davis

Row 1: Lou Hensley '77 and Kirk Hobbs '77

Row 2: Eric Tauer '76 and Tom King '76

Row 3: Paul Kruse, '77, and Colonial Inn host, Mike Davis. '74

Row 4: Brad Sexauer, '73, Charlie Johnpeter, '75

Top Row: Mark Ulmschneider '75, Chris Whittet '75, and Glenn Brower '75



The 34th Annual Indy 500 Xi Alumni and Friends Golf Outing, held May 27, 2023, and hosted by Glenn Brower

Row 1 kneeling: Dave Tanner '75, Charlie Johnpeter '75, Mark Ulmschneider '75, and Chris Whittet '75, Lou Hensley, '77

Row 2: Steve Erickson '76, Ken Behrendt '76, Kirk Hobbs, '77, Dave Harrison, '75, Brad Sexauer, '73, Eric Tauer '76, Tom King '76, Bill Simons, '75, John Easton, '73, Barry Cesafsky '76, Bill Busch '76

Back Row: Paul Kruse, '77, John Hermeling, '74, Glenn Brower, '75, John Kniesly, '73



The following members of Xi Chapter gathered in January 2024 in Covington, Indiana, for memorial services honoring the memory of Rick Ashton's ('91) mother, Judith Ashton Ferrell, known to and beloved by many Xi Chapter alumni.

From left to right: Scott Rink '91, Matt Kirt '91, Bill Beggs '89, Rick Ashton '91, Jon Stutz '91, Chad Royer '92, Jeff Rose '91, Jim Browne '91, Chris Kosobud '91, Mark Driggs '91, and (kneeling) Graham Glander '91.



The Spring 2023 Xi Alumni Dinner at the Colonial Inn, Kentland, IN, hosted by Mike and Mara Davis

Row 1: Dave Harrison, '75, hosts Mike, '74, and Mara Davis, St. Joseph College, '78

Row 2: Glenn Brower '75, Chris Whittet '75, Mark Ulmschneider '75, Eric Tauer '76 and Tom King '76

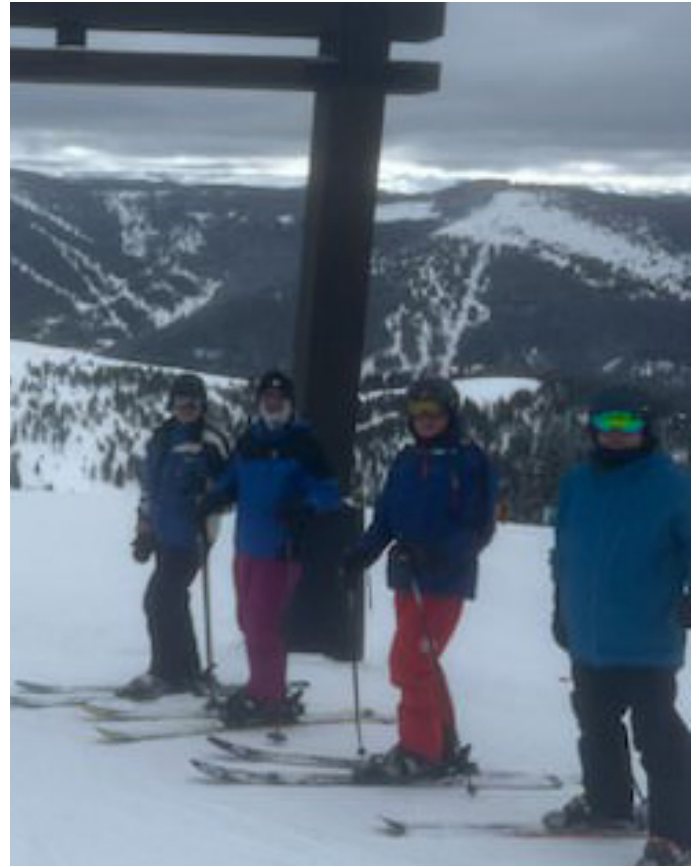


Brad Sexauer '73 and Barry Cesafsky '76 in Fort Meyers at the Edison Ford Homes during a visit to Barry's winter home in February of 2024.



Brad Sexauer '73 and Barry Cesafsky '76 attended the monthly Fort Myers Sigma Chi Alumni luncheon on February 23, 2024. Washington University alumnus Bill Robinson took the photo. Only Brad's arm is visible in the picture.

Left to right: Sam Mirakian, Kent State University; Dave Nicely, Indiana University of Pennsylvania; Bill Shields, Eastern Kentucky University; Kent Johnson, Iowa State University; Jim Shields, University of Iowa; Mike Roach, Michigan State University; Barry Cesafsky, DePauw University; and Brad Sexauer, DePauw University.

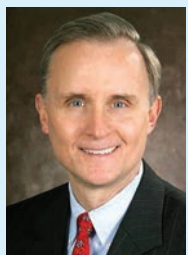


On the top of Vail Mountain, these four Xi alumni are ready to point 'em downhill! The guys convene for their annual ski outing each January. From right to left, Mark Ulmschneider '75, John Kniesly '73, John Easton '73, and Chris Whittet '75.



Legacy new member Johnny Marshall '27 and his father John Marshall '93.

Chapter Advisor Report



Brad Sexauer '73
Xi Chapter Advisor

I hope this newsletter finds you well and thriving as we dive into the new year. It was an eventful past year, and I'm excited to share some updates and highlights with you all.

On February 3rd, we had the pleasure of attending State Day in Indianapolis. With 45 actives and pledges in attendance, we represented Xi Chapter with pride, and our efforts were duly recognized as we brought home the Province Participation Trophy for High Attendance. The banquet and reception at the Indiana Roof were thoroughly enjoyed by all, and it seems like we've found a great venue for our future gatherings.

Effective last July, the fraternity underwent re-organization of provinces. Notably, there is a new Central Indiana Province comprising DePauw, Wabash, IU, Purdue, Ball State, and Butler. This shift marks an exciting chapter in our fraternity's journey, and I'm eager to see the opportunities it brings.

As your Chapter Advisor, I have the privilege of attending at least one chapter meeting a month, and I'm pleased to report that Xi Chapter is in a strong position with capable leadership at the helm. Their dedication and commitment to upholding our values are truly commendable.

Let's take a moment to celebrate our remarkable chapter GPA. Over the past four semesters, Xi Chapter has consistently ranked either first or second among the 10 IFC fraternities at DePauw. This achievement speaks volumes about the Xi Chapter dedication to academic excellence and sets a high standard for future generations of Xi brothers.

On March 2nd we initiated the 13 members of the 165th pledge class at Xi Chapter and welcomed them into the brotherhood of Sigma Chi. Among them are two legacies, adding to the rich tapestry of our brotherhood. Let's extend a warm welcome to our newest members and embrace them into our fraternity with open arms.

In December, I completed ritual peer training and certification, equipping me to better assist the chapter during chapter meetings, initiation, and special ceremonies. This certification underscores my commitment to supporting our fraternity in every capacity possible, and I look forward to serving the chapter in this capacity.

As we forge ahead into the new year, let's continue to uphold the values of Sigma Chi and support one another in our endeavors. Remember, each of us plays a vital role in shaping the legacy of Xi Chapter, and together, we can achieve greatness.

In Hoc

Brad Sexauer '73
Chapter Advisor
Xi Chapter of Sigma Chi

Xi Chapter Updates

Recruitment, New PC 165s

On March second, the 165th pledge class of the Xi Chapter was initiated into the fraternity. With this pledge class, the house brought in 13 new brothers. The newly initiated class consists of a Xi legacy, members of the Management Fellows and Honors Scholar Programs, soccer players, swimmers, and members of DePauw's club rugby team. The house is pleased with the excellent quality of character in the new pledge class, and we are excited to have the 165s contribute to the growth and future of the chapter.

Internships

The house currently has four brothers on internship both inside and outside the country. **Charlie Levine** abroad in Copenhagen, Denmark. **Will Ragan** is on an internship through the Management Fellows Program working as a lobbyist for LNE Group. He is working in West Virginia for the first half of his internship and will then transfer to Cincinnati. **Ryan Amer** is also on an internship through the Management Fellows Program as a business intern for CID Capital. **Jack Kirby**, who is also on an internship through the Management Fellows Program, is working for Medasource in Indianapolis, Indiana, as an administrative intern. He has worked with many departments in Medasource. Jack currently works with the onboarding team, helping them with paperwork and compliance to get their consultants paid. He has also met with the legal team and was trained alongside the company's recruiters.

Jobs

Senior **Drew Cosgray** already has a job lined up with First Coast News, the NBC and ABC affiliate in Jacksonville, Florida. Drew is the first News Anchor that First Coast News has hired directly out of college. There, he will be working as a breaking news reporter covering multiple events from the election, hurricane coverage, and breaking news. The support Drew has received from Xi alumni has been a huge part of his success. Xi alumnus Robert Sherman, who works as a national correspondent at NewsNation, played a large role as Drew's mentor throughout the process. All the brothers living in the

house are proud of Drew and are excited to see him continue his journey and success in his reporting career.

Study Abroads

Many brothers have been studied abroad this year. For the winter term, sophomores **Raiden Miyamoto** and **Carson Empie** went to Berlin, Germany, and Rome, Italy, respectively. Junior **Emiliano Quintanilla** traveled to Tokyo, Japan, and senior **Emilio Pizana** went to Mexico City, Mexico. Seniors **Jake Reed** and **Drew Cosgray** traveled together for their winter term and to study in both Portugal and Spain.

This semester, juniors **Nick Pease**, **Alec McCarty**, and **Charlie Levine** are all abroad. Charlie is on an internship in Copenhagen, Denmark, and Alec is studying in Spain. Nick is studying in Rome, Italy, through Temple University. He is taking classes there and is also doing an internship through the Joel Nafuma Refugee Center. He has also been able to spend time traveling throughout Europe.

Derby Days

The Xi Chapter of Sigma Chi is participating in the Huntsman Challenge again this year. The house will be running fundraising events through the first week of April with the sororities on campus to raise money for the cause to end cancer. Some of the events we do for Derby Days include the sheet sign and mural competitions where the sororities make sheet signs for their house and paint murals on the walls in the stairwells of Sigma Chi. The chapter's goal for this year is to raise \$10,000 for the Huntsman Challenge. If you would like to help the chapter reach our fundraising goal, please feel free to donate on our Sigma Chi Xi Chapter Huntsman page by using the following link:

hope.huntsmancancer.org/gentoend/sigma-chi-xi-chapter.

GPA

Sigma Chi had the second-highest GPA of the 10 fraternities on campus for the fall 2023 semester. The chapter earned a GPA of 3.44.

Written by: Carson Empie '26

Xi Chapter Foundation President Report



Mark Ulmschneider '75
Foundation President

Your Xi Chapter Foundation has been working hard to support Xi. Our permanent endowed scholarship fund began accepting donations in October of 2022 with an initial five-year goal of \$250,000. In less than a year and a half we are over 60% to our

goal. The consensus among Xi leadership is that the scholarship fund should be our number one funding priority. This is possible because of success at the active chapter and at the house corporation, which has made the house corporation currently cash flow positive. They should be thanked for all of their hard work.

As Mark Driggs mentioned, Xi is the top fraternity at DePauw academically. It consistently leads in scholarship and grade-point average. It is also the only fraternity at DePauw with a scholarship endowment. Academic awards have existed for at least 60 years, and now we have the endowment infrastructure to bring it to scale. We at Xi pride ourselves on our "work hard, play hard" culture. Our alumni provide the funding to fuel the "work hard" component and the actives do the rest.

Beginning this spring, a Zoom meeting will take place every semester between the current consul and donors at the \$1,000 level or higher. It is our belief that this interaction will reinforce the donors' belief that today's actives are no different than we were and are worthy of our support. Donations at every level would be appreciated. Do not hesitate to reach out to me for more information at ulmschneid@gmail.com or 260-414-9999 (cell) or scan the QR Code below. Please join us in making this a huge success.

Mark Ulmschneider '75

Xi Chapter Foundation Inc., President

Scholarship Fund



President Report

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I am currently serving on DePauw's Greek Community Board (GCB), as an executive committee member at-large and also running for vice president this spring, representing Sigma Chi's interests. The GCB holds semi-annual meetings on campus and the executive committee meets monthly to discuss and address issues impacting the Greek community at DePauw, including undergraduate active members and alumni volunteers.

We also meet regularly with DePauw administrators. The fall scholarship dinner was extremely successful, with the chapter welcoming DePauw's president, Dr. Lori White, and other esteemed guests. Some \$15,000 in scholarships were awarded to top academic performers from Xi Chapter.

We are proud to report that our chapter has earned the highest or second highest GPA of all fraternities for the fourth consecutive semester. This trend continues, and we are well-positioned to support earning the Peterson Award. Of particular note, the current and former president of the Interfraternity Council (IFC) is and was a Sigma Chi.

The DePauw Tiger football team won the most recent Monon Bell game, and many Sigma Chi alumni were present to celebrate.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to the Sigma Chi Xi Chapter at DePauw. We look forward to sharing more exciting news in the months to come.

In Hoc Signo Vincas,
Mark Driggs '91
Sigma Chi Xi Chapter House Corporation President



House Corporation Members

Mark Driggs '91 President	Brendan Belz '10 Treasurer	Mike Davis '74 Board Member
Derek Empie '95 Vice President	Barry Cesafsky '76 Board Member	Lou Hensley '77 Emeritus
Elliott Atkinson '19 Secretary	Jon Stutz '91 Board Member	Brad Sexauer '73 Chapter Advisor



Foundation Board Members

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

Alumni News

Leonard Huck '44: I am doing quite well after celebrating my 100th birthday in January 2023.

Richard Pell '63: Wife, Jane, died in May 2022.

Scott Russell '78: I retired on April 1, 2022, and have been enjoying traveling, with trips to Ireland, Germany, Austria, Hungary, and Sweden since retiring. When not away, I enjoy spending time in the Hamptons, where I have a house near the beach!

Stephen Strup '84: Recently asked to be on the alumni board for DePauw. He started his four-year term in September 2022. He was inducted into the DePauw Athletic Hall of Fame on Sept 28, 2019, for basketball. He is president of two surgical societies: International Society of Pelvic Surgeons, Milan, Italy, June 2023; American Urologic Association, S.E. Section, April 2023 to present.



Chapter
Eternal

WE REGRET
TO ANNOUNCE
THE DEATHS OF:

John N. Chapin Jr. '55
November 12, 2023

Jonathan Douglas Cryer '61
December 11, 2019

Harold A. Deadman Jr. '63
October 3, 2022

Robert A. Fish '64
August 18, 2022

John W. Mast '48

John W. Payne '68
November 1, 2023

Christopher N. Reinier '58
April 19, 2022

Daniel A. Saver '76
April 14, 2022

David H. Smith '67
October 6, 2022

Robert D. Smith '50
August 6, 2021



eye on xi alumni

XI CHAPTER ALUMNI SEND THEIR NEWS AND NOTES

A Family Tradition *(continued from page one)*



graduates, Carson found his own path to DePauw as he was accepted to numerous great schools. He took ample time to deliberate, wanting to make the best decision for his future and ultimately chose DePauw right before the decision deadline. When we moved Carson on campus his freshman year, I quickly learned it wasn't the same old DePauw that I knew in the 90s. Some of the changes include: a new dorm, Jordan Hall; a new soccer/field hockey/lacrosse complex named Reavis Stadium; an upgraded Roy O. West Library; a new business school; Marvin's is no longer the food of choice for students; and rush is second semester!

With rush occurring the second semester, Carson had the advantage of exploring Greek life in the fall. I encouraged him to have an open mind and did not push Sigma Chi on him. While I had an amazing time at Xi and made lifelong friends and brothers, I wanted him to find the place that

would be the right fit for him and not because of where his dad lived.

Well, as Carson described above, he decided that Sigma Chi was the place for him and pledged the house. I will admit, prior to his decision to join Xi, Sigma Chi was really just a memory for me of good times, great friends, and a place I lived for three years of my life. I stayed in touch periodically with some of my fraternity brothers, however, I was not actively engaged with the house and didn't give it much thought unless a reunion was coming up or news of a brother circulated amongst my pledge class. That all changed when Carson joined Sigma Chi.

One of the greatest gifts Carson has given me is through his involvement in Sigma Chi, because it has rekindled my love for the house and a desire to reconnect with Xi alumni and the active chapter. I got to participate in initiation and pin the Cross on Carson as a member of Sigma Chi—what a wonderful experience to witness the initiation ceremony again and to be a part of bringing him into the fraternity. It was a special moment and brought back a flood of memories and emotions that reminded me of the importance Sigma Chi played, and continues to play, in my life.

With Carson now a part of Sigma Chi, I get to experience the house through a different generation. The house has changed a lot structurally: my old room, 207, is now a bathroom; the bathrooms in the center of the house are gone and replaced by an open-air common area for socializing; the boiler room in the basement

is now a laundry room; there is a bar area with multiple flatscreens adjacent to the kitchen, Room One is now a storage closet; and there is a great outdoor hangout space along the side of the house. While there have been so many physical changes at 311 S. Locust Street, what hasn't changed are the bonds of brotherhood! I've had the opportunity to spend time with Carson and his brothers, and I've really enjoyed getting to know them and sharing with them the common tie that is Sigma Chi (although they may be tired of hearing my stories about the "good old days").

What I've learned through this experience with Carson is that Sigma Chi still means so much to me and will always be a part of me. As a result of this reunion with Sigma Chi, I decided to join the House Corporation Board of Directors so I can help be a part of maintaining the Xi house on the DePauw campus for future pledge classes.

Student participation in the Greek system at DePauw is not at the same level as when I was in the house. It is currently less than 70%, compared to more than 90% when I was in school. The thought of Sigma Chi not being a part of DePauw worries me and drives me to want to preserve Xi's existence and legacy on campus. The house is in good hands with this current generation and they continue to look for ways to improve and strengthen their presence on campus. With this in mind, I encourage all of the Xi alumni to reconnect with the house, both past and present, and keep the spirit of Sigma Chi alive.



Xi Talks – Alumni Interviews



The Xi Talks program was created by **Jim Browne '91** to connect Xi Chapter alumni with active members and provide professional development and career networking

opportunities. Each spring semester, Brother Browne and the Xi Chapter Foundation board host a full house meeting and dinner prior to the alumni talks.

Alumni from a wide variety of professions ranging from lawyers, entrepreneurs, doctors, marketers, etc. visit the house, share Sigma

Chi stories, and provide insight on their DPU experience and subsequent career paths. They serve as a sounding board and resource for active chapter members.

A Q&A session also generates open dialogue and valuable insights. Importantly, the active members are encouraged to reach out and connect with alumni in academic or professional areas they're interested in pursuing. This is yet another example and reminder of the ongoing commitment, engagement, and value our alumni base provides to the chapter.

The event is live-streamed on Xi Chapter's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/depauwsigs. Previously recorded sessions and talks also are archived on the Facebook page.