

THE TIGER SIG



PUBLISHED BY THE XI XI CHAPTER ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
OF SIGMA CHI FRATERNITY

COLUMBIA, MISSOURI

WINTER 2016

Alumni Happenings



Jeff Unger '75, Jay Shields '76, Joe Bednar '76, Dave Knight '73, Rich Elias '72, and Paul Courter '73 during Alumni Weekend.



Jay Shields '76, Jim Whitacre '49, and Amy Whitacre Crapo, Jim's daughter, gathered in 2015 to record Jim's memories of his Mizzou days. Jim played football and starred in track during his undergraduate years. The summer of his freshman year, Jim and three of his pledge brothers, Bob Evans '49, Andy McCause '49, and John Dickey '50, rode bikes to Wyoming. They were also together at the 1949 Cotton Bowl and again at the 2008 Cotton Bowl.

MEMBERS DISCUSS DIVERSITY AT MIZZOU

At the start of the second semester, a group of Chapter members sat down with the author to relate their observations and feelings regarding recent events at the university. The discussion was quite encompassing and revealing.

The general situation in the Greek community finds several historically black and multicultural fraternities whose total memberships would just about add up to the size of our Chapter. In the past, our Chapter has invited black groups to social events at the Chapter House, but finds the size difference—the largest black fraternity numbers about 20—has been a bit imposing to the visitors.

Black membership is growing in fraternities, with one chapter having six black members. We will have our first black pledge this semester. It was gratifying to see that our Chapter was enthusiastic about his pledging for one reason: he is a fine young man. Interestingly, a black member of another fraternity, initiated at another university in a chapter not existing here, spends a good deal of his social time at our Chapter House since he likes us and the Chapter likes him.

In looking at specific events on campus, named as examples of racist expression, the Chapter took them rather lightly since they equated them to single actions typical of drunks, commenting that they had seen many acts worse than those cited done by those having little idea of what they were doing. The “brown” swastika in the dorm bathroom was viewed by our members as being, perhaps, more anti-Semitic than anything else. They heard of the cotton ball incident, recognizing the racist implications of that act.

Interestingly, when the protests erupted last year, the Chapter indicated that university life remained normal with some rare occasions of discussions of the problems in classrooms. The Chapter did indicate that members stayed at

the Chapter House more during normal social hours, not because of any concern of being out in Columbia, but wanting to discuss the on-going events. Naturally, social media exploded on the subject, so even more time was spent on tablets and phones. The membership generally avoided the rallies indicating they were not of much interest to them. They, like most, have difficulty in understanding safe space.

The Chapter indicates that the general population at MU is decidedly liberal as is the teaching faculty. They did say, however, that, although teachers might express their bias, there was never any indication of student disagreement affecting grade outcomes. It was mentioned that one teacher, overtly quite liberal, had a Marxist speak to this class, but classes that might open the door for such instances were few.

They recognized a definite move to replace retiring white faculty with blacks and indicated that students were being assessed a special fee to underwrite freshmen education in diversity and hiring changes. They estimated that the Greek system would contribute some \$600,000 a year to this effort. They felt that diversity education would not have a great effect on the Greek system since racism simply isn't that prevalent in fraternity houses. It was mentioned that the IFC had held a diversity camp where attendees were cautioned against the use of gender specific pronouns. This, they felt, was rather ridiculous. The only negative incidence with a black student that our members could recall was when an uninvited young man entered a party at the Chapter House and started insulting the women and wouldn't leave. One of our brothers physically intruded.

All in all, the Chapter's attitude could be summed up as mature, recognizing realities and accepting them, and welcoming black members in the future...not on race but on character.

Doug, Sally, and a Grand Piano Sigma Chi Welcomes House Parents

A new term will now become common in Xi Xi jargon: house parents. For the first time in our lengthy history, a married couple will hold sway at 500 College. The groom, Doug Lane, has lived and worked with the Chapter for the past year. Sally, on the other hand, has visited the Chapter House several times, has seen the confinement of the living quarters, and yet still is game to make it her home after the wedding. There is one caveat: a grand piano comes with her. However, it will not be housed in their quarters.

For us ancient Sigs who remember when a piano was a fixture in the formal room, this is more than a drop of nostalgia. Interestingly, it is also welcome by the Chapter since several members are piano proficient and relish the chance to play.

Sally, a nurse supervisor in the St. Louis area, will pursue similar employment in mid-Missouri. Doug, who heads the security company, Signal 88, will retain his position. Doug's background in the Marines and policing work places him in good stead for supervising the department of the Chapter.

Doug and Sally will be married at the Chapter House on May 29. According to Doug, Sally has compiled a handsome guest list, and he hopes he will be represented by Chapter members and alumni. The event will be catered.

Besides offering a woman's touch in terms of personal rapport with members, Doug indicates that Sally is a person of great energy and usually only needs three to four hours of sleep. It seems she is ready-made for some nights at Sigma Chi.



XI XI CHAPTER FORMS ALUMNI ADVISORY BOARD

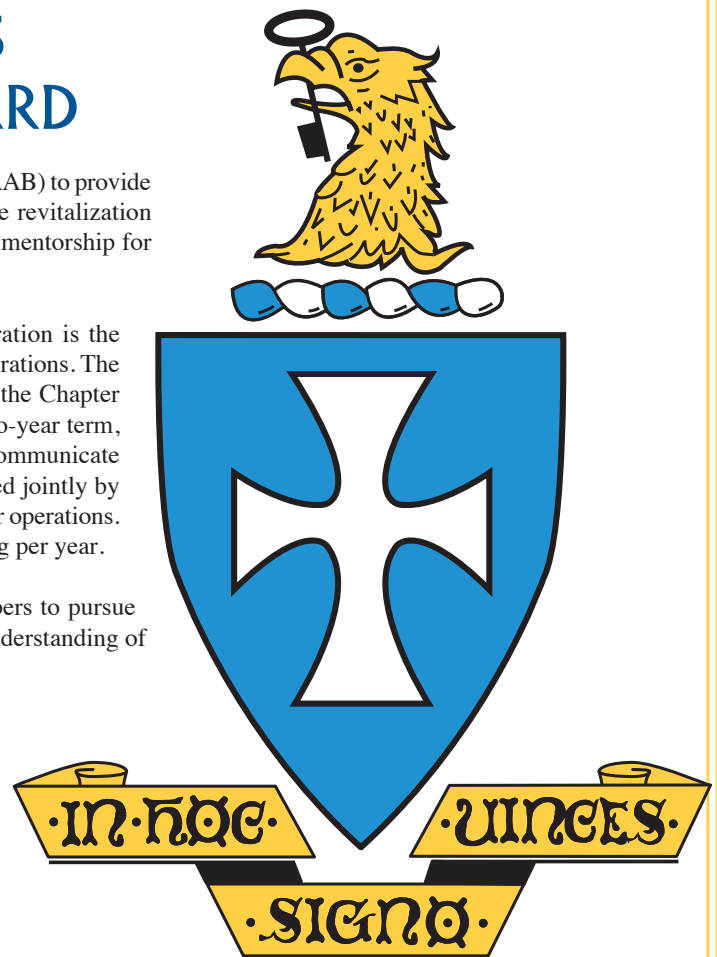
In December, the Xi Xi Chapter organized a new Alumni Advisory Board (AAB) to provide mentorship to Chapter officers. Brother **Jay Shields '76** championed the revitalization and organization of the AAB after seeing the need for more activity-based mentorship for the undergraduate officers.

The AAB is separate from the House Corporation, as the House Corporation is the landlord of the Chapter House. The AAB advises the officers on Chapter operations. The House Corporation does not handle behavioral issues, which is the job of the Chapter advisor and the AAB. The Grand Praetor appoints AAB members for a two-year term, with the Chapter advisor serving as chairman. Members are expected to communicate with their assigned Chapter officers either weekly or monthly, as determined jointly by the alumni mentor and the Chapter officer, to advise them on running Chapter operations. They are expected to attend at least three meetings and one Chapter meeting per year.

The greatest challenges we are facing are educating and motivating members to pursue the fundamental mission of Sigma Chi. AAB members must have a firm understanding of this basic strategic mission to effectively guide and advise the Chapter:

- ◆ **Core values:** friendship, justice, and learning
- ◆ **Vision:** to be the preeminent collegiate leadership development organization — aligned, focused, and living our core values
- ◆ **Mission:** to develop character-based leaders committed to the betterment of character, campus, and community

In hoc,
Harry Pettey '12
harry.pettey@centralbank.net



XI XI CHAPTER WELCOMES 33 NEW MEMBERS

CHAPTER HOSTS INITIATION CEREMONY IN LOCAL CHURCH

The men of the Xi Xi Chapter are proud to announce the initiation of another strong fall pledge class of 33. These honorable men were welcomed into our brotherhood in the community room of the downtown United Methodist Church. The spiritual atmosphere was a perfect setting for our ritual. Fathers, uncles, and a grandfather were also on hand to pin their boys. Former Consul **Jeremy Terman '16** said having initiation outside of the house was a learning experience and he was honored to lead a new tradition.

“It was great to have the pledges up on a stage and have all the alumni and actives sitting below,” Terman said. “Everyone did a great job on their parts and we are refining our rituals every year. We are having great involvement within the



New members celebrate their initiation.

house, and if we can continue to do this in the future, we will have something amazing.”

Brothers Complete Successful First Semester, Look Toward 2016

Both the active Chapter and pledge class achieved GPAs of above 3.0. The Chapter’s largest participative event during the first

semester was Homecoming. Xi Xi placed fourth in floats, won the best supporting actor award in skits, and finished first in the blood drive and the Homecoming T-shirt design contest.

Several general goals for the second semester are to raise even more money for charity in the annual hockey game with the Betas. Last year \$17,000 was raised. According to unbiased sources from the Chapter, beating the Betas will be a cinch. Higher monetary goals are also being set for Derby Days to exceed the \$2,000 raised last year. Fifteen men will form the second semester pledge class, and a firm goal is to raise both their grades and active grades above the 3.0 level. A committee has been formed to give a better organized effort to winning a Peterson Award for this school year.



Nathan Willett '15 teamed up with other members of the Greek community to help rake leaves and tidy up for local MS patients.



New members perform a short skit at Mizzou’s annual Homecoming house decoration celebration.



Wil Camden '19 and Neil Hunt '19 perform in a Homecoming skit directed by Berry Brooks '17, Sam Maassen '16, and Carter Gage '16.

Welcome, New Members

Tyler Barnes
Overland Park, Kan.

Brendon Ebert
St. Louis, Mo.

Wil Camden
Chesterfield, Mo.

Gordon Edwards
Tulsa, Okla.

Parker Cordova
Chesterfield, Mo.

Connor Eisenhart
Chesterfield, Mo.

Jake Decker
Sunrise Beach, Mo.

Shane Eyer mann
Wildwood, Mo.

Jake Delcambre
St. Louis, Mo.

Austin Faerber
Wildwood, Mo.

Brennan Drury
St. Louis, Mo.

Hunter Forte
Chesterfield, Mo.

Luke Fraser
Chesterfield, Mo.

Jordan Gonrowski
Mound, Minn.

Matt Hall
Chesterfield, Mo.

Gabe Harrington
Raymore, Mo.

Billy Hodes
Kansas City, Mo.

Liam Hodes
Kansas City, Mo.

Neil Hunt
Plano, Texas

Nate Kane
Ellisville, Mo.

Landon Knopf
Lebanon, Mo.

Aaron Lloyd
Weldon Spring, Mo.

Thomas Martin
St. Louis, Mo.

Mark McDonough
Weldon Spring, Mo.

David Mendonsa
St. Louis, Mo.

Sam Pottenger
Kansas City, Mo.

Kurt Prunty
Pacific, Mo.

Joe Saracini
Mission Hills, Kan.

Jack Sellenriek
Wildwood, Mo.

Ryan Sullivan
Oakville, Mo.

John Tulipana
Kansas City, Mo.

John Wilson
Overland Park, Kan.

Pat Windler
Ballwin, Mo.

Chapter Eternal

Albert Darling Sr. '46 entered Chapter Eternal on January 18. He was honorably discharged from the U.S. Navy in 1946, last serving on the USS LSM 4 in the Pacific Theatre. Al was the president of K.C. Envelope Co. and the CEO and president of Darling Envelope Corp. He was a Vanguard Club member, past president of Indian Hills Country Club, member of Hillcrest Duck Club, and a proud sponsor of Ducks Unlimited since 1960. Al was a life member of the NRA, Kansas Rifle Association, and American Legion Post 21 of Independence, Mo. He especially cherished his many pheasant hunting trips to South Dakota. Nothing was more important than his family, especially the many years and special memories at Old Hickory at the Lake of the Ozarks. He was extremely proud of all of his children and fortunate to know and be loved by nine grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

Thaddeus C. McCanse '49 entered Chapter Eternal on October 7, 2015. He first served in the Missouri National Guard, the Hound Dogs of Aurora, and then in the U.S. Army, posted in the Aleutian Islands. After five years of service, Thad attended MU, completing his coursework and law school in four years. Thad served as general consul for Rock Island Railroad in Kansas City, and then was a senior partner in James & McCanse. Law and justice were Thad's passions, and he was inducted into the prestigious American College of Trial Lawyers. Thad practiced law for more than 55 years. His hobbies included woodcarving, bridge, reading, and tennis into his 90s. Thad was known for his mean left-handed serve, his prominent eyebrows, and his wit. He loved music and would unpredictably burst into song. Thad was a graceful dancer and the life of any party. He had the gift of making people laugh. He is survived by his wife, Gertrude, his sister, Janet Mundy, his four children and their spouses, eight grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Gordon E. Wells '52 entered Chapter Eternal on April 14, 2015. He served in the U.S. Army, and traveled to Korea before attending Mizzou in 1948. There, Gordon met the love of his life, Joan Snider (Pinky). He graduated a "true son from Old Mizzou" in 1952 with a liberal arts degree. He also attended the Graduate School of Banking at the University of Wisconsin. Gordon and Pinky were married in 1953 and celebrated 61 years of marriage on December 19, 2014. They have two children, Gordon E. Wells Jr. (Sandy) and Sally L. Wells. Gordon started his banking career in 1952 as a clerk in the Trust Department at the First National Bank of Kansas City, the only bank he ever worked at. He was named First National Bank's president in 1971, and in June 1977, he became the chairman of the board of the bank and eventually the bank holding company.



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Thomas M. Scott '58 entered Chapter Eternal on August 31, 2015, at the age of 79 at his home in Mission Hills, Kan. In 1958, he married the love of his life, Betty C. Scott, in Kansas City, Mo. After graduation, he spent more than 40 years as a leader in the commercial insurance industry. Since his retirement in 1997, Tom was involved with numerous community and philanthropic activities. He and Betty also have been strong supporters of Wayside Waifs-Kansas City and of Mizzou, where they first met. In 2006, Tom received a doctorate of humane letters, and in 2012 received the Distinguished Alumni Award from the Mizzou Alumni Association. In 2014, Tom was honored with the Significant Sig award from the National Sigma Chi Fraternity organization and remained active with Xi Xi until

his death. Tom always sought to find the good in every person and situation. One of his favorite precepts was, "Do more than anyone expects." Everyone who knew him can attest that Tom was a living exemplar of this guidance.

Todd A. Sickel '58 entered Chapter Eternal on February 6, 2015. He was a proud member of the 1954 Mizzou baseball NCAA World Series Championship and inducted in the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame. He went on to sign with the Brooklyn Dodgers AAA Team. Todd was an avid golfer, meeting many good golf buddies along his way, but the 19th hole was his favorite. He leaves behind many wonderful friends. Todd was a member of the U.S. Military.