

# THE TIGER SIG



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

COLUMBIA, MISSOURI

FALL 2017

## QUO VADIS XI XI? WHERE IS OUR CHAPTER HEADING CAREER-WISE?

*(Our thanks to Annotator **Jack Sellenriek '19** and Consul **Sam Pottenger '19** for detailing the current courses of study of some 130 of our actives and pledges.)*

**W**e who dig for content for the *Tiger Sig* thought you might find it interesting to see how well the scholarly aspirations of our Chapter align with current projections for career success in the future. You will find that, for the most part, their determinations are generally perceptive of opportunity.

One fact that immediately jumped out was that at a university famous for its School of Journalism only four of our members indicate interest in that area. Looking at journalism futures may indicate the reason for this 2-percent-plus of our Chapter assigning themselves a journalism major. Both print and broadcast journalism are listed in the top 10 of depleting career paths. With a culture seeking immediate and abbreviated sources to what's up, newspapers and broadcast news, being more ponderous than the iPhone, do not look sunny. Journalism, obviously, is a sound path to honing writing and analytical skills, but abilities might best be eventually directed down other paths. We do have one advertising major who, although headed for the J School, will, we hope, recognize that deriving strategic marketing skills from his curriculum could serve him best.

Although we don't have great numbers indicating a desire for entry into the medical field, specificity of interest indicates our guys know the situation there. Various areas of medical support rank right up there in terms of future

growth. Physicians not so much, which is probably a reflection of the currently undetermined future for health care in this country. Whereas we have five members indicating health sciences, from physician assistant to pre-professional as careers, only two are in pre-med.

In recognizing the rosy predictions for finance and accounting our Chapter shines. We have 25 undergraduates—that's about 20 percent of the Chapter—headed toward finance and accounting. This general area ranks high among the careers listed as having strong growth and healthful futures.

As one would expect, the general category of business and marketing, with some specifying defined areas, ranks tops in the Chapter. It also ranks well as a general opportunity. Forty-three, or one-third of the Chapter, indicate this as their targeted area of endeavor. As might be expected, the younger the member the more prone he is to give merely that general category, whereas juniors and seniors indicate specialties such as sports marketing, international business, manufacturing operations and hospitality.

The area with the most categories in the jobs of highest potential belongs to engineering.

Of the most propitious are civil, aerospace, mechanical, bio-medical and chemical engineering. Our young men line up well in this

regard with two each indicating civil, aerospace and chemical engineering as their interests, while one picked mechanical. One had not made up his mind.

What was probably the most surprising was that we had but one young man, a freshman, who indicated a career in information technology. As you might imagine, careers related to almost anything in computer sciences are shown to be of great potential for those entering business. Could it be that some of our skilled technical types are missing the boat?

Although teaching gets high ratings as a career—and we had only one indication in that category—the rating is based on teaching at the college level where the average salary is a tad over \$70,000. Not so immediate an achievement and sometimes not so pleasant a profession until one is tenured.

The above pretty well sops up the career paths indicated. We have a few political science majors who we trust will graduate with some modicum of objectivity. Only two in the Chapter mentioned law, which is perhaps understandable due to the overpopulation of the profession.

At least none in our Chapter indicated he wished to be a lumberjack, a man of the cloth, an art teacher or exercise instructor. These are ranked as among the stinkiest of all.



## XI XI FINDS A FAN IN SYSTEMS PRESIDENT

**D**r. Mun Choi, shown proudly posing with his Sigma Chi cap, is a most engaging president of our University Systems. Having heard of our Hall of Fame banquet, he indicated he would very much like to participate. And participate he did. He mingled during the cocktail hour, he spoke to the audience, he stayed for dinner and afterward he collected our attending Chapter members so he could informally talk to them.

We have never seen such interest and participation from an MU leader. We have never found such encouragement for our scholastic program at his level. Dr. Choi brings true freshness to his position...and we will be delighted to consider him an honorary Sigma Chi anytime he wishes.

You'll find photo coverage of the banquet inside the issue.

## QUALY, DICKEY, AND ELIAS FAMILY JUMP-START XI XI SCHOLARSHIP

After **John Qualy '70** laid the foundation for scholarship futures with a \$100,000 donation, additional contributions of \$50,000 each were made by former Rhodes Scholar **John Dickey '50** and St. Louis investment adviser **Rich Elias '72**. Our ultimate desire is to build the value of our scholarship endowment to the point of being self-supporting in terms of annual donations. The current goal is to build a scholarship funding base of \$300,000. The gifts mentioned above bring the current total to \$220,000, giving us marvelous momentum. Our program at Xi Xi is the largest of any fraternity chapter in the country and this year recognized 40 Chapter members with GPAs of 3.5 or more.

We hope any alumnus reading this will consider participation in this most worthy effort. To do so go online to our Xi Xi alumni site, at [xixichapter.sigmachi.com](http://xixichapter.sigmachi.com).

## CHAPTER ETERNAL

**Robert Parks '49** of Hollywood, California, passed away at his home on February 15. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Audrey Jones Parks, formerly of Edinburg. In addition, he is survived by a son, **John R. Parks, Southern Methodist University '79**, of Hollywood; a daughter, Janet Huston, of Sherwood, Oregon; three grandchildren, Rebecca Parks of Bend, Oregon, and Hannah and Reed Huston of Sherwood; and a sister-in-law, Cleo Didawick, of Edinburg.

Robert spoke highly of his time at the University of Missouri and in being a Sigma Chi. With pride, Robert pinned his son, John, with his personal badge at the Delta Mu Chapter at Southern Methodist University.

## LEAVE A LEGACY, PUT XI XI IN YOUR WILL

Our goal is to provide scholarships for our students through the tax-deductible Sigma Chi Educational Foundation of Missouri. To learn more, contact **Dan Slickman '77** at (816) 863-4400 or [bogeyeslick@aol.com](mailto:bogeyeslick@aol.com).



## RUSSELL, WEISENFELS, AND MCMULLEN ENTER XI XI HALL OF FAME

The athletes expected the honor. The attorney did not. We knew **Andy Russell '63** was a nine-time Pro Bowl selection as linebacker for the Pittsburgh Steelers after captaining the MU football team. We knew that **Nip Weisenfels '71** was an All-Big Eight linebacker and running back and also captained the MU football team. Perhaps surprising to many (as he would never mention it) was the national recognition given to **Larry McMullen '53** for his achievements in the legal profession. His inaugural selection had

been kept a secret. As was the presence of his Sigma Chi son, **Mike McMullen, Stanford '81**, to give him the award.

All three inductees have certainly brought honor to Xi Xi, deserving the recognition received at the first Hall of Fame banquet attended by alumni and Chapter members. The event was held at the Holiday Inn Executive Center following the annual Xi Xi Shootout at Columbia Country Club.



(1) Active Chapter attendees with Hall of Fame recipients. (2) Ben Trachtenberg, faculty advisor, Nathan Willett, student body president, and Dr. Mun Choi. (3) David Knight, a principal organizer of the event, recognizes other participants. (4) Sportscaster Gary Link entertains our group as master of ceremonies. (5) John Qualey '70 tells of the Sigma Chi roots of his family. (6) Andy Russell '63 speaks of MU experiences outside of football. (7) Dr. Choi speaks to our audience of alumni and active members. (8) Jay Shields '76, president of the Xi Xi Alumni Association, sells scholarship funding. (9) The three inductees to the Hall of Fame exhibit their hardware.



# AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGMA CHI LEAVES US

## *Remembering Duncan Matteson '56*



*In May of 2015, Duncan brought his family from California to Mizzou to introduce them to the campus and our renovated Chapter House. They were amazed at the beauty of both.*

On May 12 of this year, **Duncan Matteson '56** entered Chapter Eternal.

Although absence can make the heart grow fonder, distance frequently ebbs the dedication and emotional attachment of our alumni to our Chapter. This was never the case with Duncan. Spending most of his adult life in California, his heart remained with Xi Xi.



### THE SUN STOPS SHINING ON THE SIGMA CHI OAK

Early this past summer, in the midst of a heavy storm, the oak tree at the north side of the Chapter House took a direct hit by lightning. To give you an idea of what happens in a direct hit, the heat of the lightning is so intense that it boils the sap, expanding it greatly. The sap explodes and blows the bark off the tree in sizable chunks. At least the tree took the destruction of the lightning and not the Chapter House.

We called in a tree company, which called in the city arborist. His diagnosis was that the tree's chance of survival was slim, but possible. Since the oak has stood guard on the Chapter House for almost a century, we gave it a shot with treatment for insects and fungus and also a dose of fertilizer and

growth inhibitor, which allowed the tree to use all its remaining energy to repair itself. It didn't work. The tree died rapidly. We removed its remains shortly thereafter.

At least one of our alumni is using the branches for firewood, so it still is contributing within the fraternity. He also will make a ring count to see how old the tree actually is. Besides removal, we took out the stump and much of the root system so we were able to replant this fall. Our plan is to put in as large a replacement as is practical.

For those of you who plan to live another 100 years, you will see the "new" oak in all its glory. That is unless lightning strikes twice.

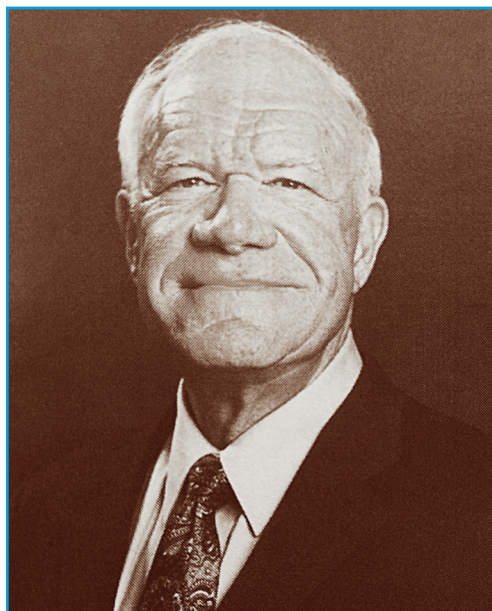
Duncan came from Kansas City, Mo. to MU as a freshman in 1952. He graduated as third in his class academically, was a Metropolitan All-Star in football, basketball and track and, due to his brother George being a Beta at the University of Pennsylvania, he was headed for that house down the street from us on College. During recruitment week Duncan saw the light and, also influenced by his close friend **Dick Jensen '56**, who became Consul in 1956, he pledged Sigma Chi.

At Mizzou, Duncan continued his achievements. He played varsity basketball, was number two on the MU golf team and was elected pro consul as a sophomore and consul as a junior. This was a time when seniors normally held these offices. A moment still remembered by his brothers came at the intramural track meet when Duncan, as relay anchorman, came from behind to win the race, the meet and the Seven Year Trophy for our Chapter. A Beta finished second. Duncan was named the Intramural Athlete of the Year.

Duncan was one to set his own path. He neither smoked nor drank (making him a minority of one), but never missed a Chapter party. As scholarship chairman, he guided the Chapter to a top five finish academically for the three years of his tenure. At that time the kiss of death was for a chapter rep to be called to the office of the dean of students, properly known as "Black Jack." Duncan consistently volunteered and argued each case admirably.

*Continued on page 4*





## AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGMA CHI LEAVES US

*Remembering Duncan Matteson '56*

*Continued from page 3*

Just as singular in his private life, Duncan's love affair with his wife, Shirley, started in high school. They were married while still at Mizzou, a union which continued for 61 years until Duncan's death. His son, **Matt Matteson, University of Southern California '81**, and grandson, **Brady Badger, University of Southern California '07**, followed in his footsteps. Duncan always said of Shirley that she was "the wind beneath our family's wings."

Duncan's professional life flourished in the California Bay area. After excelling in real estate he founded and served as chairman of the Greater Bay Bank. Later he acquired and merged nine other banks under the Greater Bay name. Along with Shirley, he supported numerous charitable causes, and when Xi Xi and MU called, Duncan answered...in a major way. He was a founding member of the Davenport Society, which rebuilt the business school. When we started our drive to renovate the Chapter House, Duncan stepped forward with a \$250,000 contribution. More recently, when we needed new cabinetry in the formal room, Duncan paid the bill. In 2005, he was named a Significant Sig.

His life was one of bringing honor to his family, his university, and his fraternity. We have lost a great friend.



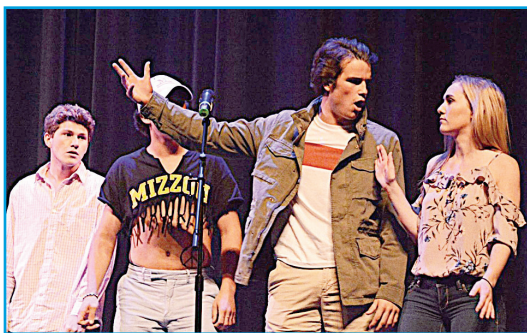
# THE TIGER SIG



**Xi Xi Chapter of  
Sigma Chi Fraternity  
at the University of Missouri**  
P.O. Box 22548  
Kansas City, MO 64113-2548

*Address Service Requested*

PASFT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
LAWRENCE, KS  
66044  
PERMIT #570



*(Above) Matt Thompson '21 upstages Johnny Huber '20 and Jack Ross '21 as he sings to a Tri Sig lady during our Homecoming skit.*



*(Above) With a Tri Sig squeezed between them, Jack Eagan '21 and Liaison Blake Fallon '19 sing of revolution in our Homecoming skit in Jesse Auditorium.*



*(Left) Our reverse-capped Homecoming king candidate Nathan Willet '18 joins his competition in enjoying Chancellor Dr. Alexander Cartwright giving blood instead of them.*

STAY CONNECTED



[xixichaptersigmachi.com](http://xixichaptersigmachi.com)



@SigmaChiXiXi