



THE TIGER SIG



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

COLUMBIA, MISSOURI

FALL 2022



*The colony spends an evening
at the batting cages.*



*Brothers represent the colony with the
Sigma Chi flag.*



*What better way to bond than over a round
of go-karts?*

EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS

The Colony Is Off to a Great Start

When I first joined Sigma Chi, there was an air of unknowingness around the fraternity. Part of it came from me since I did not know much about Greek life. The majority came from the fact that we were building something that had not been on campus in three years. Over the past few months, I have realized that this is one of the greatest opportunities of my life.

A Solid Beginning

Sigma Chi formally returned to campus just over six months ago; however, it was not early enough to participate in formal recruitment, which left any major recruitment efforts up to an informal approach.

We ended that semester with five strong and devoted men: Consul **Harmon Colvett '25**, Pro Consul and Tribune **Tyler Thomas '25**, Quaestor and Scholarship Chairman **Evan Langdon '24**, Magister and Brotherhood Chairman **Owen Bartle '25**, and Risk Manager **Greg Geotz '25**.

Growing the Associate Chapter

Our first semester, we focused on building a strong base. We wrote our bylaws, formal Declaration of Intent, first risk management plan, and first budget while also running our own Chapter and executive meetings.

Our largest and most successful point this semester was recruitment. Having only five men left us severely outnumbered, but we were only motivated by the adversity. Fourteen men accepted bids to join Sigma Chi. They recently received their pledge pins and began the journey of their pledge class.

Supporting the Community

Outside of Sigma Chi, our five actives are involved in their community as well. Evan is a member of the Army Reserves and ROTC program; Harmon works as an emergency medical technician at Boone Hospital; Tyler is an RA at Bluford Residence Hall; and Greg volunteers at Open Door Animal Sanctuary.

It was amazing seeing 14 men receive pins from a fraternity that was just a few guys and a dream five months prior, and we are only planning to go up from here. I am honored to call myself consul and have the opportunity to serve.

In hoc,
Harmon Colvett '25
Consul

2022-23 Colony Goals

1

Finish our colony process and apply to be inducted as a Chapter by the end of the school year.

2

Host a formal before the end of the semester.

3

Induct at least 25 Brothers by the end of the school year.

WHY WE JOINED SIGMA CHI

Canon Dew '26

"Sigma Chi has been great for me. The active Brothers have been fantastic and very welcoming. I have met a lot of good people and have made a lot of friends out of this. We are building something great here for generations to come, but first with the foundation."

Harper Kisse '25

"This pledge class is one of the most driven groups of guys I have ever met. I'm so excited to see what we can accomplish and where we can take this Chapter!"

Blaise Fields '25

"Sigma Chi has changed my perspective on what a fraternity can be. I know that the tools to become leaders of men are here at Sigma Chi."

Thank You, 500 Club Members BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!

Six Xi Xi alumni have stepped up to become founding members of the 500 Club. These are the very first donors to this new fundraising effort for the Sigma Chi Educational Foundation of Missouri, a 501(c)(3) foundation. A big **THANK YOU** to these Brothers.

Five-Year 500 Club Members (\$2,000)

Christopher Lewellen '91
John Qualy '70
Kevin Deptula '01

One-Year 500 Club Members (\$500)

Larry McMullen '53
Dave Knight '73
Jay Shields '76
Dan Slickman '77
Eric Fritsche '01

Two-Year 500 Club Members (\$1,000)

John Walker '60

You can also become a member today by going to [goxixi.com](https://www.goxixi.com) and making a tax-deductible donation! There are membership levels from \$25 to \$2,000, or you can choose to donate a custom amount. Helping to bring Xi Xi Chapter back to Mizzou is its own reward, but you will also receive a gift for different giving amounts!

Thank you for your continued support. You can find more information about the 500 Club at [goxixi.com](https://www.goxixi.com).

Catch Up with Aiden Ellis '18!

Aiden C. Ellis '18 graduated with his bachelor's degree in Spanish and chemical engineering. He served in the Peace Corps until March 2020, when he was mandatorily evacuated from Ecuador after serving in the rural parish of Anconcito. Since then, Aiden has worked full time for the Johnson County Department of Health and Environment and the Blue Valley School District as a health services liaison, overseeing their COVID-19 response efforts. Additionally, he received his Master of Public Health from KU Med in May 2022. Aiden is currently looking for jobs in project management, consulting, healthcare, pharmaceuticals, or epidemiology. He resides in Roeland Park, Kan. Email: aiden.conrad.ellis@gmail.com



BEHIND THE SCENES: SUPPORTING THE COLONY

How You Can Help Xi Xi Strengthen Its Legacy

As the Grand Praetor, I advise the Chapters in the Province, and shall be empowered to enforce therein the constitution, statutes, ritual, and regulations of the fraternity. In my own words, I am the boots on the ground representing Sigma Chi Headquarters.

Key Milestones

As of mid-June, Sigma Chi has moved from interest group to associate Chapter. (While it has not been announced formally, the name has changed from colony to associate Chapter.)

The recruitment of quality members is essential now and throughout this process. During Phase 1, the colony focuses on internal operations. During Phase 2, the colony refines internal relations and exhibits a strong focus on external relations. Both phases require a report to be approved by the NCDC to move to the next part of the process. This typically takes about two years.

The Importance of Alumni Support

Alumni support is essential in the process of bringing back Xi Xi. It is a team effort led by the Grand Praetor and Chapter advisor and includes a Chapter advisory board and house corporation.

The advisory board is made up of Brothers mentoring the various officer positions in the associate Chapter. The consul is mentored by the Chapter advisor, then optimally, there would be a mentor for the pro consul, quester/financial advisor, recruitment advisor, scholarship advisor, risk management advisor, and faculty advisor.

There is also a new program within the now fully accredited Sigma Chi Leadership Institute. Alumni have been asked to go through foundational leadership mentor training, and we've had several brothers step up. This training is designed to work with the magister in our pledge training program, Preparation for Brotherhood, and the kustos in our post-initiation training, Ritual for Life. More information can be found at sigmachi.org/scli.

In addition to SCLI involvement, we have tremendous backing from the International Fraternity, including DJ Gries, Expansion Coordinator; Des Robinson, Director of Fraternity Growth; and Bob Wilson, Grand Pro Consul and head of New Chapter Development.

In the end, all of this is designed to help us build a successful Chapter—one that is run by the actives, advised by alumni, and lives by the standards and ideals of Sigma Chi.

In hoc,
Rob Westrich
Grand Praetor

LIVING UP TO OUR VALUES

Kevin Deptula '01 Shares His Devotion to Sigma Chi

Living in the Xi Xi Chapter House with his Sigma Chi Brothers taught **Kevin Deptula '01** more about people, working together, and trying to understand other perspectives than any other point in his life. That's why he's proud to continue serving the Chapter as an alumnus. "When **Larry McMullen '53** calls, you answer!"

Kevin has spent several years working with the Josh Seidel Memorial Foundation, awarding an annual scholarship to deserving Brothers. Alumni volunteering was a great way to support Xi Xi and stay connected to his Brothers—so when efforts to restore Sigma Chi at Mizzou began, joining the Comeback Committee with **Jay Shields '76** as his co-director was only natural. Kevin also serves as co-chairman for the Recruitment Committee as Xi Xi's rechartering efforts continue.

"The commitment from the entire alumni leadership group is amazing," Kevin said. "I look forward to working with even more alumni in the future, to help Sigma Chi return to Mizzou in full force—and staying the best fraternity at Mizzou for the next 100 years."

"Fifteen minutes every other week or every month ... just may change someone's life."

GAINING A BROTHERHOOD

Kevin's sister, who was three years ahead at Mizzou, recommended he consider a fraternity to help make a large campus smaller. "A good friend of hers was a Sigma Chi, and she said the guys at that house were just different—and they were! I received a bid and joined."

Together, Kevin and his pledge Brothers learned how to find common ground (with one another as well as the many active Brothers) and work together toward common goals. That camaraderie and growth turned into lifelong friendships as their passion for Sigma Chi grew. Kevin's favorite memories were from the pledgship and ritual process, including his time as ritualistic chairman in his senior year.

"Guiding each new pledge class through the process of learning about Sigma Chi, followed by initiation, was something everyone took pride in," Kevin said. "Forming unbreakable bonds with your pledge Brothers, then making more among the actives and alumni, is a lifelong journey that's hard to describe. Even to this day, when you meet another Sigma Chi, that bond of similar experiences and values creates a trust factor that only true friendships enjoy."

"I look forward to working with even more alumni in the future, to help Sigma Chi return to Mizzou in full force—and staying the best fraternity at Mizzou for the next 100 years."

SHAPING MEN OF QUALITY

Kevin believes Xi Xi needs three things from its alumni: time, awareness, and financial support. "While Xi Xi has always been run by the actives (and that has not changed), everyone needs a mentor to provide guidance," he said. "Anyone who has ever been successful at anything has probably had at least one person help them along the way."

"Today's technology, or a good old-fashioned phone call, makes it easier than ever to be a mentor to one of our young members. Fifteen minutes every other week or every month, from someone who is not their mom or dad, just may change someone's life."

Kevin lives in O'Fallon, Missouri, with his wife of nearly 22 years and their two children. "In football terms, I outkicked my coverage by at least 30 yards when she said yes to going to Sigma Chi Riverboat with me. If it weren't for Sigma Chi and that one moment, I couldn't imagine what my life would be like today."

To connect with Kevin or learn more about Xi Xi volunteer opportunities, you can reach him at kdeptula@buildersbloc.com.

Kevin's Advice to Young Members

"Have high standards, hold your values and principles near your heart, and respect each other. No one is perfect and everyone makes mistakes. And when mistakes happen (and they will), be the person to make the tough call or take the unpopular position to help make things right. One day you may be the person in need, and hopefully, someone will be standing there to help you too."

Welcome, New Brothers!

Adam Bani '25
St. Louis, Mo.

Canon Dew '26
Kearney, Mo.

Blaise Fields '25
Clever, Mo.

Nathan Fields '25
Manhattan, Ill.

Samuel Horitz '25
Eureka, Mo.

Harper Kisse '25
Ozark, Mo.

Colin McDonald '26
Kansas City, Mo.

Kyle Milburn '26
Kearney, Mo.

David Percy '26
Prairie Village, Kan.

Liam Redington '25
Clayton, Mo.

Josiah Regheta '26
Kansas City, Mo.

Hagen Tatarsky '25
Dallas, Texas

Kevin Ward '25
Wildwood, Mo.

Jackson Williams '26
Kansas City, Mo.



Welcome, Brothers! We are eager to induct 14 incredible men into our colony.

SAVE THE DATES

*Alumni, Come Back
Home This Fall!*

Annual Membership Meeting

We will be hosting our Annual Meeting of Xi Xi Chapter alumni on Saturday, November 5, at 9 a.m. in Columbia. Please plan to attend! All alumni are welcome and encouraged to attend in person.

We have made a lot of progress in our return to Mizzou over the past year and have an even bigger year ahead of us; we want your participation! You will receive more information, including meeting location specifics in future communications.

Tailgate

Alumni are also invited to the 2022 Tailgate 4 Josh—our annual tailgate on November 5 before the Tigers take on the Kentucky Wildcats at Mizzou. Come join your Brothers and friends and get in on the fun!

Tailgate 4 Josh is hosted by Brother **Kevin Deptula '01** and the board of directors of the Josh Seidel Memorial Foundation in memory of our departed Brother **Josh Seidel '02**. The Seidel Foundation was founded in 2014 to support STEM and other community-based initiatives across Missouri after Josh's unfortunate passing.

Tailgating at home football games during and after graduation was always a yearly tradition that Josh loved. The Foundation has carried on that tradition to remember and celebrate Josh's life and the bonds of friendship that he enjoyed with so many.

Because of fundraisers like Tailgate 4 Josh, the JSMF has been able to award nearly \$35,000 in scholarships to support worthy Sigma Chi Brothers with some of their educational expenses.

The tailgate opens two hours before kickoff with an all-you-can-eat barbecue buffet, adult and kid beverages, and big-screen TV to enjoy the game. The Foundation asks for a \$30 donation for adults (kids are free) to help raise funds to support Sigma Chi and other worthy endeavors.

If you are looking for an opportunity to come back to Mizzou for a game and see some old friends, we would love to see you there. Please visit joshseidel.org for more information about the Foundation and the tailgate.



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Sigma Chi Fraternity
at the University of Missouri**
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Colony Officers

Consul
Harmon Colvett '25
(901) 230-7391

Scholarship and
Brotherhood Chairman
Owen Bartle '25

Quaestor and Scholarship
Chairman
Evan Langdon '24

Pro Consul and Tribune
Tyler Thomas '25

Colony Advisor
Sean McDowell,
Theta Iota '21

Risk Manager
Greg Geotz '25

Alumni Advisory Board Is Complete

Colony Advisor **Sean McDowell, Theta Iota '21** is happy to announce the new Alumni Advisory Board for our Associate Chapter. These brothers will work as mentors to the officers of the Colony/Associate Chapter in a critical one-on-one relationship. Please thank these brothers for caring enough to step up. There will be room for more advisors/mentors if you are interested.

Consul Advisor
Sean McDowell
Theta Iota
Columbia, Mo.

Recruitment Advisor
Kevin Deptula '01
St. Louis, Mo.

Alumni Relations
Advisor
Jay Shields '76
St. Louis, Mo.

Magister Advisor
Andy Kassel '95
Columbia, Mo.

Pro-Consul Advisor
Mike Melaragno
Alpha Gamma
St. Louis, Mo.

Faculty Advisor
Ben Trachtenberg
Theta Upsilon
Columbia, Mo.

Risk Manager Advisor
Anthony Vatterott
Theta Iota
Columbia, Mo.

Financial Advisor
Jack Noble '88
Kansas City, Mo.