



THE TIGER SIG



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

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SPRING 2017



INCLUSIVE STRATEGY CARRIES XI XI TO STUDENT BODY PRESIDENCY

That lumpy old couch, on which Xi Xi **Nathan Willett '18** and his vice president, Tri Delta Payton Englert are perched, personifies the winning strategy that carried the duo to a record win at MU. Nathan and Payton received 8,548 votes, 17 percent more than the previous record. "Voting in a campus election is not a primary consideration for most college students," Nathan said.

So, how did they get there? How did they energize so many at MU?



The winning team of Nathan Willett '18 and Payton Englert on the lumpy old couch, where for two weeks, they invited conversation to all comers. They weathered suggestions from various directions and some barbs, but proved their desire to represent all students.

Since Greeks are one of the largest student segments, opponents easily claim a segmented bias when representatives of fraternities and sororities run for office. Nathan and Payton didn't let that happen. Most importantly, their campaign message, "Tigers Together," was reflective of their vision for MU's future. It was a lot more than words.

They started with a mature and senior-heavy campaign staff, and, as most campaigns need cash, Xi Xi alumni stepped forward to offer strong financial support. The heart of the candidates' beliefs was that many campus elements could be unified through a student government not bogged down by the past but focused on the forward. Going forward meant a new togetherness.

Nathan and Payton are great sales people for our university. They have strong respect for the MU experience, both in education and total quality of student life. This enthusiasm permeated through their communication.

Now for the lumpy old couch. They set the remnant up in the shadow of the columns, and for two weeks, they hosted open conversations

with any student who would sit with them while enjoying, as Nathan avers, some fine coffee. The discussions were broad-reaching, the comments sometimes emotional, but they showed this team would be there for everyone. It was an exclamation point to their message, and it worked!

There were a few bumps in the campaign road, some thrown by their opposition, but Nathan and Payton navigated them smoothly. They, with their cabinet and student senate, will set the direction of the university for the next year. Nathan considers himself the chief advocate for all students. He and Payton want to see a campus that moves together as a unit and puts past differences away.

It is interesting how their objectives coincide with those of the Interfraternity Council and chapter presidents. It's biting off a lot, but if enthusiasm and focus can make a difference, it will abound in Nathan and Payton's administration.

By the way, they did have a campaign bonus. They were supported by Harpo's. With that kind of help, how could you lose?

Recent Problems Generate Strength for the Greek System and Xi Xi

If you live anywhere within normal media reach of our campus, you have seen the publicity regarding the fates of two Mizzou fraternities, one charged with severe hazing and the other allegedly involved in a race-based interlude. Even though no blame was found in the latter incident, previous problems with the involved chapter motivated its removal from campus by its national organization. The hazing house also met the same fate.

Fraternities must live with an emphasis on the negative behavior and frequent medial neglect of the good things they do. It's frustrating but a fact of life. For instance, in the past four years, the Alpha Epsilon Pi Rock-a-Thon has raised more than \$400,000 to fight cancer. Our Chapter, from the Sigma Chi vs. Beta hockey game and Derby Days, raised \$38,000 in one semester. All the funds raised went toward fighting the same disease. When the Beta chef's wife became seriously ill, the Chapter supported her with a \$5,000 donation. Trent Grimshaw, a Delta Tau Delta, flew to Washington, D.C., to donate bone marrow to help a woman with blood cancer when they were matched. This spring, Xi Xi alumnus **Alex Lindley '15** will meet his fundraising goal of \$250,000 to produce a film on suicide problems in college. His group, Project Wake Up, also plans to contribute to mental health support at MU. These cases represent just a sampling of the positive efforts of the men and women of the Mizzou Greek system.

THE NATURAL AND RATHER UNNATURAL REACTION

It's only natural that the university amplifies communication with and pressure on the officers of Greek organizations, increasing the scrutiny of their chapters after events and trying to cull occurrences negatively impacting the image on the campus. Though the oversight has increased, the response by the Greek community may surprise you. Instead of reacting with a "poor us" attitude, both the Interfraternity Council and individual chapter officers decided it was time to take positive strides forward.

The IFC recognized the damage to general fraternity unity resulting from flimsily grudges and overreaction to healthy competition. It has set out to change that culture and to improve interaction through better social contact; particularly reaching out to historically African-American fraternities. We at Xi Xi previously attempted the latter but found due to our large membership, we tended to overwhelm the smaller numbers of those organizations. IFC,

in recognizing this disparity, has encouraged contact among officer groups of the chapters to equalize the numbers.

Although hazing, due to our "no freshmen in the Chapter House" policy and the newly instituted pledge program, is virtually a non-issue at Xi Xi, the encouragement of pledges to perform acts which infringe on the privacy and property of other chapters has been a divisive issue in terms of achieving Greek unity. IFC is emphasizing stoppage of this. Special efforts are being made to educate freshmen about the right way of acting.

A RETURN TO FORMER DISCIPLINARY PROCESSES

During the time that the two chapters were being expelled, the disciplinary process had been tightened. Xi Xi had been a prominent actor in altering the previous rules; when any charges were brought against a chapter, it would be given two weeks to investigate, report its findings, and indicate any discipline exacted. When the negative publicity hit the fan, the process was tightened. Now, due to the positive steps being taken, the original system appears reinstalled. Most importantly, a stronger bond among fraternities has been created from their common purpose. The immediate future promises a healthier position for our Greek system, consistently recognized as one of the most vibrant in the nation.

WHAT'S THE STATUS OF XI XI?

Our Chapter's current picture has to be weighed against our unique positions on freshmen and our pledge program. You may remember we initiated 41 out of 41 pledges in the fall and have a spring semester class of 15. Our consul reports, with an expected degree of bias, that pledging Sigma Chi is highly coveted among potential new members, and we cannot take all the good men who would like to join us. In-house problems have been minimized, and a growing respect and care for the Chapter House is noticed.

Nathan Willett '18, receiving heavy support from a number of other fraternities and sororities, is the new student body president, and the Chapter is readying for another dazzling and successful Derby Days. Folks, that's called momentum.

One can surmise that out of the ashes of negative publicity, the Greek system and our Chapter have never been stronger and more united.



Although Rome was their home base, Jack Wirtz '18, Berry Brooks '17, Alex Wagoner '18, Joe Terrence '17, Morgan Salisbury '18, and TJ Gebhart '18 swept through Europe, balancing education with a strong taste of the varied cultures. Here they are in front of a cathedral in Madrid.

A Culture of Academic Success

At Sigma Chi, we believe the best way to promote academic success is to reward it. We recruit on grades. This is one of the key advantages of joining Sigma Chi. The Sigma Chi Xi Xi Educational Scholarship Fund is a 501(c)(3) that awards more than \$30,000 per year to members who achieve a 3.5 GPA or higher. The best part is they receive their checks in front of those who matter most: their mothers and peers. Recognition is the most effective form of encouragement.

DIVERSITY

Sigma Chi believes in a diverse membership. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, or sexual orientation.

OUR MISSION: BE THE PREEMINENT LEADERSHIP ORGANIZATION ON CAMPUS

What better way to learn leadership than by doing. Sigma Chi Xi Xi Chapter is a \$700,000 business. Parents are often amazed when they learn their sons, not the alumni, are operating it with all the problems of working committees that manage revenue and expenses. The members learn first-hand the Sigma Chi principles of working with people of "different talents, temperaments, and convictions."

OUR VALUES ARE ALIGNED WITH UNIVERSITY VALUES

Our values are based upon the Sigma Chi principles of "friendship, justice, and learning" and are aligned with the values of the university.

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Spring Semester Highlighted by Personal and Chapter Accomplishments

The spring semester has produced many highlights for Xi Xi Chapter. Our new executive council is proud of the Chapter's direction and the opportunities presented to them and the brotherhood. Many Brothers also have noteworthy achievements.

Nathan Willett '18 was elected as student body president. After his victory, at least 100 Brothers were at the MSA senate meeting to congratulate him. Once the voting numbers were released, we learned that this MSA election had the most votes cast in recent memory.

The Chapter is also on track to host another great Derby Days. Philanthropy Chairman **Ryan St. John '19** worked hard to get every sorority to pledge their participation. Derby Day's culmination is the Sweetheart Ball on the lawn. Social Chairman **Jordan Gonrowski '19** hopes that this ball resembles the picture of the 1983 Sweetheart Ball found in *A History of Xi Xi Sigma Chi*.

The active Chapter is excited about our Greek Week pairing, the women of Gamma Phi Beta. **Alex Boyd '17** is the co-director of Greek Week, and **Nick Jenness '18** is a member of the steering committee.

Members of the fall 2016 pledge class have begun contributing as active Brothers. Our national organization selected **Seth Crockett '20** to attend the 2017 Sigma Chi Horizons Leadership Conference. Seth is assistant magister, on the Derby Days committee, an ROTC member, and majoring in aerospace engineering.

He and five other members of the pledge class moved into the Chapter House this spring. These freshmen have contributed well to the Chapter House dynamic. The executive council is considering making moving into the Chapter House an incentive for top fall pledges in the future.



Moms and sons were gathering in our yard during mothers' weekend when Michael Porter and Kevin Knox, the first and seventh ranked basketball recruits in the nation, dropped by to socialize.

Our executive council would like to graciously thank alumni who have contributed to our efforts this spring through donations to Derby Days, Slap Shot on Cancer, and the annual scholarship banquet.

We are very optimistic about what the fall has in store for Xi Xi Chapter.

In hoc,

Sam Pottenger '19

Consul

syqbqb@mail.missouri.edu

Welcome, New Brothers

FALL 2016

Dane Basler / St. Louis, Mo.
Jake Bergner / Kansas City, Mo.
Nathan Bira / Fenton, Mo.
Scott Brainard / Overland Park, Kan.
Zane Brewer / Camdenton, Mo.
Seth Crockett / Camdenton, Mo.
Devon Davis / Kansas City, Mo.
Mike De Abila / Chicago, Ill.
Andrew DeGreeff / St. Louis, Mo.
Joe Dreyer / Webster Groves, Mo.
Jack Durham / Denver, Colo.
Blake Fallon / Westfield, N.J.
Jake Fetters / Kansas City, Mo.
Mark Gorman Jr. / St. Louis, Mo.
Will Hawkins / Overland Park, Kan.
Andy Heller / St. Louis, Mo.
Alex Karrenbrock / St. Louis, Mo.
Griffin Killion / St. Louis, Mo.
Mick Kimes / St. Louis, Mo.
Spencer Kinzie / Chicago, Ill.
Jake Lamb / Kansas City, Mo.
Gavin Litherland / Springfield, Mo.
Sam Martino / Kansas City, Mo.
Connor McAteer / Peoria, Ill.
Brendan McConnell / Kansas City, Mo.
Kyle McDonough / St. Louis, Mo.
Derek Miller / Lee's Summit, Mo.
Will Minnick / St. Louis, Mo.
Ryan Oberle / St. Louis, Mo.
Jackson Randle / Eden Prairie, Minn.
Paul Redel / Ballwin, Mo.
Luke Rose / Prairie Village, Kan.
Peter Simon / St. Louis, Mo.
Henry Sniezek / Prairie Village, Kan.
Wil Stephens / Prairie Village, Kan.
Kevin Vega / St. Louis, Mo.
Trevor White / Kansas City, Mo.
Austin Wike / Lee's Summit, Mo.
Justin Williams / St. Louis, Mo.
Nick Wiss / St. Louis, Mo.
Hayden Zadrozinski / Eureka, Mo.

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Brandon Abner / Bell City, Mo.
Chagdrick Berger / Kansas City, Mo.
John Costigan / Bloomington, Ill.
Jack Fox / Palatine, Ill.
Johnny Huber / St. Louis, Mo.
Devin Marty / Fenton, Mo.
Mitchell Morris / Shorewood, Ill.
Michael Peterson / Naperville, Ill.
Paul Pudil / Chesterfield, Mo.
Jack Rechtiene / St. Louis, Mo.
Ian Rendell / Wellesley, Mass.
Robby Stevens / Fayetteville, Ark.
Jimmy Tegethoff / St. Louis, Mo.
Nick Voorhees / Fenton, Mo.

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 bogeyslick@aol.com.



Xi Xi

ALL CLASS REUNION

Xi Xi ALL CLASS REUNION AND SCHOLARSHIP GOLF OUTING
OCTOBER 6, 2017 - COLUMBIA COUNTRY CLUB



Join Us for a Memorable Xi Xi Event on October 6 Proceeds Support the Xi Xi Scholarship Fund

The evening's events include:

- Golf at the beautiful Columbia Country Club. We will play four-person scramble with prizes for first, second, and third place.
- Lunch, beverages, player gifts, contests, and more.
- Our first Xi Xi Hall of Fame dinner will follow with a cocktail reception and upscale dinner.
- During the dinner, the first Hall of Fame class will be recognized for their achievements during and after their time at 500 College Ave.
- All proceeds will benefit the Xi Xi Scholarship Fund. This fund is a significant reason why Xi Xi has a high-achieving pledge class, a full house, and one of the top grade point averages on campus.

If you cannot make the golf outing, you may still join for dinner afterward.



THE TIGER SIG



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Sigma Chi Fraternity
at the University of Missouri**
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xixichaptersigmachi.com



@SigmaChiXiXi

A Culture of Academic Success

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Scholarship Award Criteria:

1. We model our scholarship program after the Latin Honors program that is widely understood by undergraduates at MU and many other universities around the country. Latin Honors at MU consists of three levels defined by specific GPA achievements:
 - Summa cum laude: 3.9 and above
 - Magna cum laude: 3.7-3.899
 - Cum laude: 3.5-3.699

\$30,000 is the maximum payout. Individual awards are figured on a pro rata basis (summa = \$1,000, magna = \$750, cum laude = \$250-\$300 depending on remaining funds available).

2. Special Awards

- Ike Skelton Outstanding Junior Award: \$500
- Shields/Tidd Outstanding Sophomore Leadership Award: Engraved Watch
- Outstanding Freshman Award: Mother's Board

Chapter Eternal

Kent Knopinski '63 entered Chapter Eternal on January 19 after a long battle with lung cancer. During the Vietnam War, he was in the Army Reserves. He married Joanna in 1964, and they had a daughter, Ashley Dru. After the birth of their daughter, they relocated to Los Angeles, where Kent began his career at Pierose Building Maintenance Company in Beverly Hills, Calif. In 1970, their second child, Jason, was born. Kent rose within the ranks of the building services industry to become the president of Bekins Building Maintenance Co. He became a leader in this industry and was a key partner in several large mergers. In 2004, Kent retired. He and his second wife, Judi, relocated to Carmel Valley, Calif. In 2007, he became Vice President of Glastonbury Inc., based in Sand City, Calif. Kent enjoyed

traveling to Europe and playing golf with his friends in Carmel Valley. He enjoyed spending time with Judi, dining out with friends, and planning the next family vacation. He also adored his cats; he would walk them daily and they liked to ride in the car with him. Kent will be remembered for his warm wit, honest nature, and his unwavering loyalty to his friends.

Robert L. Jackson Jr. '64 of Shawnee Mission, Kan., entered Chapter Eternal on November 18, 2016, at the age of 74. He received his J.D. from the University of Missouri in 1966. He was senior partner at Rose, Jackson, Brouillette, and Shapiro. He then became vice president of J.C. Nichols Real Estate. In 1997, he formed Great Plains Developments.