

THE TIGER SIG



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

COLUMBIA, MISSOURI SPRING 2024

BROTHERS FOR LIFE

Honoring a Rich Legacy

n this issue of *Tiger Sig*, we are remembering two great Xi Xi Brothers who recently passed into Chapter Eternal; **Andy Russell '63** and **Brian O'Rourke '83**. I share our collective condolences to the family, friends, and Sigma Chi Brothers who meant so much to them.

Among my thoughts on their passing are two things. One, we have had so many great, great men as Brothers in the long history of the Xi Xi Chapter. Our history and legacy are built on the shoulders of Individuals who richly demonstrated in their entire lives the same cornerstone principles of friendship, justice and learning that the undergrads in our associate chapter at Mizzou are building on today.

Second, we are Sigma Chis for life. When more than 40 brothers, who care so deeply, travel to Kansas City, to lead and participate in the White Rose Ceremony for a Brother gone too soon; and an 80-year-old Brother of national esteem travels cross-country to Columbia to be honored in an inaugural ceremony for a fledgling Xi Xi Hall of Fame: it shows how poignant and enduring the bonds of Sigma Chi Brotherhood endure throughout our entire lives.

We can all be proud to be Sigma Chi Brothers of the Xi Xi Chapter.

IHSV, **Dave Knight '73**deknight59@gmail.com



Brian O'Rourke '83, of the Kansas City area, entered Chapter Eternal this past winter. More than 40 of his Xi Xi Brothers attended the White Rose Ceremony in his honor. Mike Basler '85 and Jeff Weinrich '86 provided the eulogy and Bill Beil '83 led the ceremony.

Remembering the MVP

Significant Sig Andy Russell '63 Enters Chapter Eternal

Andy Russell '63 was a two-way star footballer out of Ladue, Missouri, who played for Coach Dan Devine from 1960-62 when the Tigers went 25-3-3. He played in three bowl games and intercepted two passes in MU's Orange Bowl win over Navy in 1961. He also led the Tigers in rushing that season and returned a pass interception 47 yards for a TD in a 10-0 victory against the Oklahoma Sooners. Brother Nip Weisenfels '71, who also played football for Dan Devine at Mizziou, remembers Andy: "Andy was one of the iconic Tiger football players of all time. When I was recruited by Dan Devine, he brought up Andy right away. His parents wanted him to go to an Ivy League school where he had opportunities, but he stayed with Mizzou as his pick, and it turned out well for him. That made a huge impression on me, as I also had offers from some Ivy schools. I followed Andy's example at Mizzou and Sigma Chi, and it turned out great for me too," said Nip.

He went on to a long and decorated career with the Pittsburgh Steelers as an early member of the famed "Steel Curtain" defense. Andy made the NFL all-rookie team in 1963 and then, as an ROTC grad, served two years in the U.S. Army. He was the Steelers' MVP in 1971. Russell played on two Super Bowl championship teams and in seven Pro Bowls, including six straight—the most by a linebacker. He was selected All-Pro by NFL writers nine-straight seasons and was a record 10-year captain of the Steelers. He never missed one game in his 186-game

Andy started his own investment company in Pittsburgh and later became a managing partner of Laurel Mountain Partners and started the Andy Russell Charitable Foundation to fund health care and human services. Andy climbed all 54 peaks in Colorado of 14,000 feet or more.

He was named a Significant Sig in 1981; we offer our sincere condolences to his family, and all honor to his name.



Significant Sig Andy Russell
'63; Tiger football Academic All
American Nip Weisenfels '71; and
Order of Constantine Sig Larry
McMullen '53 were honored as
inaugural Xi Xi Hall of Fame
inductees at the 2018 banquet in
Columbia, Missouri.



Smashing Every Milestone Insurant Initiation Date Prays Near

Sigma Chi Delta Associate Chapter has successfully met all the requirements for Chapter installation!

e eagerly await a member from the new Chapter development committee (NCDC) to review our Chapter and formal petition. Once the review is complete, we'll be able to set an initiation date, which we anticipate will be in early fall 2024. As we approach this milestone, the Associate Chapter has worked diligently to improve internally and make our presence known on campus.

We have centered our internal focus on improving our GPA. Heading into fall 2023, the Chapter ranked 16th among Mizzou fraternities after earning a 3.18 GPA last spring. We knew this was not fulfilling our pillar of learning and various virtues, so we set a goal for improvement. With hard work from our members and Scholarship Chairman Kolby Armon '26, we raised our semester GPA to 3.44, ranking

third! This allowed us to win the Most Improved Chapter GPA award from the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life.

A particularly notable brother was **Owen Bartle** '25, who improved from 2.6 to 3.2. Owen credits his progress to knowing that members must have above a 2.5 GPA to be initiated when the time comes. This inspired him to treat school as a full-time job, working diligently from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. each week. "Seeing Sigma Chi's GPA improve has been rewarding because when installation comes, I want all my brothers to be initiated alongside me," he said. "We want to make our alumni proud and show them we mean business when it comes to academics."

The Delta Associate Chapter has also worked to be recognized more on campus by participating



From left: Canon Dew '26, Kyle Milburn '26, Jacob Deeter '26, and Remy Newgent '25 enjoy the Derby Days Gala.

in Homecoming in the fall and Greek Week in the spring. For Homecoming, the Associate Chapter was paired with Sigma Phi Epsilon, Alpha Sigma Phi, and Zeta Tau Alpha. This team placed third in the float contest during the parade and finished fifth in donations at the blood drive.

For Greek Week, the Sigs were paired with Theta Chi and Alpha Delta Pi. The week consisted of powderpuff football, volleyball, tug of war, and

CHAPTER GOALS







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From left: Nathan Fields '25, Tyler Thomas '25, and Drew Hahs '25 show off the Most Improved GPA award, the Certificate of Achievement in Member Development, and the Most Improved Chapter award, all granted by the Missouri Greek Alliance.

many other events. We placed third in the blood drive and fifth in canned food donations, which led to a fifth-place overall finish.

Finally, the Associate Chapter recently held its second annual Derby Days, which raised money for the Huntsman Cancer Institute. The week included a volleyball tournament, a pay-to-pet event, trivia night, sorority banners, and a gala. The lovely women of Phi Mu were crowned Derby Days winners, and overall, the Associate Chapter raised \$5,226, with \$4,714.20 going to the Huntsman Cancer Institute and \$511.80 going to Children's Miracle Network. We want to thank all alumni who donated to our Derby Days!

After all our accomplishments this past year, Missouri Greek Alliance named us the Most Improved Chapter and granted us the Certificate of Achievement in Member Development. Delta Associate Chapter hopes to make alumni proud as we enter the final steps toward reestablishing Xi Xi Chapter at the University of Missouri-Columbia. We ask you to be on the lookout for our long-awaited initiation date and hope you will join us for the celebration!

In hoc,
Bobby Hummel '25
Kustos



Brothers participate in the monthly cleanup of the Chapter's adopted section of road.



From left: Kyle Milburn '26, Harper Kissee '25, and Trent Mayberry '26 coach the Alpha Delta Pi powderpuff football team during Greek Week.



The undergraduates dress to impress at the Derby Days Gala!

CHAPTER OFFICERS •

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CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2024!

Join us in sending best wishes to our graduating senior, **Evan Langdon '24**. Evan is moving on to begin a new chapter as an active-duty army officer, air defense artillery. If you'd like to contact him, send an email to elangdon1214@icloud.com.

Know Someone We Should Know?

Send Us Your Recruitment Referral

To recommend a potential new member, send their contact information to one of the following officers:

Consul **Tyler Thomas '25** (314) 722-9290 | tylernthomas8@gmail.com

Recruitment Chairman David Pearcy '26 (816) 916-1135 | bwdpearcy@gmail.com

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"Because of the Brothers' ability to serve the community through philanthropy events and community service while also engaging in fun activities with other groups."

-Isaac Jenkins '27

"I was interested in joining an organization that would accept me and help me grow. The brotherhood has already confirmed I made the right choice!"

-Stephen Boateng '27

"To develop myself professionally while seeking personal growth and networking opportunities."

-Harrison Lingle '27

"I wanted to find a group of people who have the same values as me and who would offer a chance to grow."

-Owen Crews '27



Welcome, New Members

Stephen Boateng '27 | *St. Louis, Mo.* Jason Burge '27 | Ozark, Mo. Owen Crews '27 | Webster Groves, Mo. Isaac Jenkins '27 | Nixa, Mo.

Simon King '27 | St. Louis, Mo. Harrison Lingle '27 | St. Louis, Mo. Luke Matson '27 | Olathe, Kan. **Jackson Speed '27 |** *Ozark, Mo.*



St. Louis Xi Xi Reunion

June 20 | 5-8 p.m. CDT Andre's in Sunset Hills | Hosted by John Armengold '92