



THE TIGER SIG



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

COLUMBIA, MISSOURI

SUMMER 2019

FILLING IN THE GAPS

We had previously communicated via email the status of events up to late fall. These comments will take things to the present while reminding you of early details.

Shortly after the start of school some actives, ignoring alcohol and hazing rules, decided to get to know the pledges better by conducting a room tour in the house during which alcohol was offered. A few others had pledges return later for a lineup. These actions were reported to Greek Life.

Greek Life entered into conversation and subsequent direct meetings with the International Fraternity regarding the course of action to be taken. The contents of the Restorative Justice Program were given to Greek Life.

When the Restorative Justice Program was reviewed, Greek Life agreed that Sigma Chi should take all responsibility for supervising the Chapter's future as long as all parties kept in total communication with them.

The interview process was held in early December and it followed patterns experienced by other chapters with a majority of upperclassmen asking out.

Our financial survival depended on moving dorm-dwelling freshmen back into the house (this was ironic since we had been the only major Chapter on campus to follow the University's wish of no in-house freshmen). The university cooperated by cutting the penalty for breaking dorm contracts, so we entered the second semester housing 35 freshmen and 16 actives. Based on the provisions of the RJP, we will be able to recruit between 20-25 men this fall. They will, of course, live in the house and we should have the numbers to be sound when all fraternities must abide by the new "no freshmen in houses" policy of the university, which will take effect in the fall of 2020.

A new group of Chapter officers was selected from the remaining actives. Freshmen were initiated and moved in. As **John Costigan '19** describes, a new structure was set to maximize involvement in Chapter direction. Small committees were formed to focus on ritual, scholarship, recruitment, house management and philanthropy. They functioned well as evidenced by their progress in planning.

One of the problems faced by the freshmen-heavy Chapter was policing suspended actives who attempted to ignore their status and come into the Chapter House. Obviously, it's tough for a freshman to face down a senior. With minor incidences, this was kept at a minimum.

The culmination of this process has been the formation of a unity among university personnel, the International Fraternity, and the Chapter. This



Larry McMullen '53 addresses mothers and Xi Xi sons at our scholarship luncheon.

Triumph Born out of Turmoil

Sigma Chi Mizzou Celebrates Annual Scholarship Banquet

On a windy Saturday in late April Xi Xi actives, their mothers, a group of alumni (just a portion of whom are represented in the photo above), and our university systems president ascended to a rooftop restaurant in Downtown Columbia to honor scholarships in our Chapter. Even more meaningful was that this event represented the rather miraculous accomplishment of all present in bringing Xi Xi from a condition of profound disorder to a status of energy, strength through unity and acceptance of new direction. Had this not happened, a scholarship luncheon would never have materialized.

In the ensuing articles we will take you back starting at the April celebration through rapid-fire days of redirection of the Chapter to negotiation with the university and International Fraternity to the incident which set everything in motion. Before that, we recognize

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will be made stronger in the coming school year when **Andy Kassel '95**, former province praetor, assumes the role of further unifying this cooperative venture.

We now have a smaller-than-usual but stronger-than-usual group of determined members. Substantive order arose from chaos. The scholarship event gave tangible evidence of the success of the Chapter.



John Qualy '70, Jay Shields '76, Dan Slickman '77, and Larry McMullen '53 surround major scholarship recipients Joe Pedrotti '21, Nick Beckett '21 and Nikko James '21.

Triumph Born out of Turmoil

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in word and picture those who give foundation to our scholarship program.

First in line must be the Sigma Chi Mother's Club. When the smoke cleared, it was quite late to even think of holding the annual luncheon. Alumni, with some caution, approached the moms whose attitude was one of "Don't worry about the constraints, we'll do it," and they did. All was organized, the site was unique, and everything went smoothly down to each mom carrying a white rose into the ceremony. Their attitude was reflective of their sons during the past few months: accept the challenge, get it done.

\$19,250 was awarded to Chapter members with amounts ranging from \$350 to \$4,000. Smaller Chapter numbers meant fewer overall scholarships. Again, the foundation for financing the awards came from **John Qualy's '70** \$100,000 donation in memory of his Brothers William and James, with additional \$50,000 amounts given by **Rich Elias '72** in honor of his son Rich, and **John Dickey '50**, who created a PALS scholarship honoring **Jim Whitacre '49**, **Bob Evans '49**, **Andy McCanse '49** (all members of his 1945 pledge class) and **Thaddeus McCanse '49** who mentored them.

In hoc,
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Consul John Costigan '19 received the Ike Skelton Award as the outstanding Xi Xi junior.

THE CONSUL LOOKS BACK

Following are the thoughts of **John Costigan '19** who, at the request of alumni, assumed the role of Chapter leadership at a most difficult time. John followed with a focus and strength that both energized and directed our path.

Opportunity, a word we have used quite often to describe the perspectives we have taken in the Xi Xi Chapter over the past few months. An opportunity for growth, realignment, brotherhood and strength. Our great challenge became one of translating opportunity into planning and action.

The past months have been a time of great challenge for the Chapter. It all started with us facing a conduct suspension followed by a demanding period of negotiation with the university and the International Fraternity. During this second period, a membership review was held with actives and freshmen. The fallout of this was a Chapter dramatically revised in structure and in purpose. This highly reshaped entity entered a three-year process called the Restorative Justice Program, a condition of performance engendered by the International Fraternity.

THE FIRST STAGGERING BLOW

The membership review, held the first week in December, proved to be our first hurdle. Active members were given the choice of either facing the review or opting out, which, if they did the latter, immediately put them on a suspended member status. Further possible status repercussions depended on performance during the interviews. Pledges faced the same process. The interviews were conducted by a panel of alumni selected from across the country.

When the dust settled, 16 active members and 35 pledges remained. We had lost half our actives in just the opt-out process and more were eliminated in the interviews. Two pledges left the fold, and this was merely a start of the Restorative Justice Program.

HEAVY GOALS AND LITTLE TIME

We were given goals which the Chapter had to reach over a three-year period. Whereas the first year only encompassed the spring semester, the final two follow calendar periods. Our immediate challenge was to implement a scholastic program which would lead us to 3.25 accumulative GPA. Every brother was required to go through Preparation for Brotherhood, the basic pledge education program. Sigma Chi headquarters made continuous visits with personnel facilitating retreats on alcohol and drug education. The result of approved participation is the allowance of more privileges in terms of participating in social and campus events.

At the time, still feeling the impact of the membership review, the program facing us seemed like a mountain impossible to climb. Besides the requirements of Restorative Justice, we had to take separate focus on how the Chapter would function, how we would maintain morale and—which is a classic problem in a condition such as ours—how we would maintain separation among those on suspended status with our active members. We made a key and successful decision: instead of relegating responsibility among a chosen few, we involved a significant portion of the Chapter in various areas of management. The stake in the success of the house was then shared by many.

A NEW STRUCTURE THAT SPREAD OWNERSHIP

Former chairmen positions became small committee responsibilities. Ritual, scholarship, philanthropy, house management and recruitment were designated as vital areas. Members could join one or more committees,

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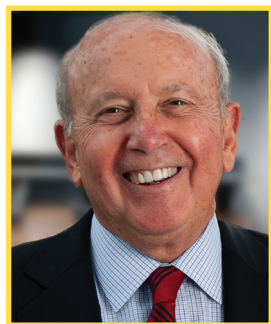
Meanwhile, Back in the Alumni World...

ATTORNEYS EDDIE GREIM '99 AND JIM POLSINELLI '64 HONORED AS SIGNIFICANT SIGS

Eddie, former national Balour Award winner, brings that tradition of success to his performance as an attorney. A graduate of Harvard Law School, Eddie has focused his practice on commercial litigation, internal investigation, whistleblower claims, free speech and election law. He has been recognized as the "go-to" lawyer on constitutional law. In 2013, he received the Influential Lawyer of the Year award from Missouri's Lawyer Weekly. His depth in the areas mentioned is such that he is licensed to practice in Missouri, New York and Kansas as well as at the U.S. Supreme Court and the U.S. Court of Appeals. A native of Excelsior Springs, Eddie lives in the Brookside area of Kansas City.



Jim offers a list of accomplishments which would take the entire space of this issue to present. After four undergraduate years in Columbia, Jim was graduated with honors from MU Law School in Kansas City. On four occasions, he has been recognized as one of the "Best Lawyers in America" for his practice of corporate law. Jim, who serves on the UMKC board of trustees, also chairs the Law School Entrepreneurial Task Force. In 1982, Jim was



appointed by then governor Kit Bond to serve as chairman of the Kansas City Area's Transportation Authority. In 2013, the Leukemia Society named him Man of the Year. Jim, showing great balance, has not let his multiple endeavors, which included leading his own law firm, keep him too far from the golf course where he apparently excels having been a member of the Rockhurst High School all-state team. Jim currently resides in Kansas City.

THE GAVEL IS PASSED TO PAUL COURTER '73

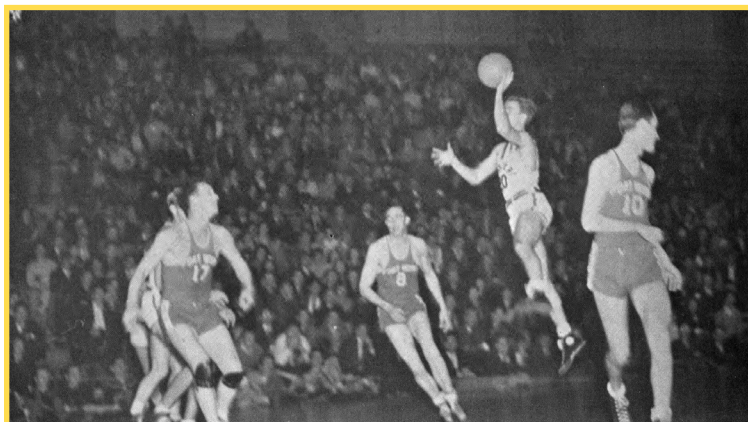
In a recent meeting of the house corporation, our visibly relieved president, **Kent Williams '83**, presented Paul with his own mallet to use in his new position, the leader of the several score of alumni who comprise the management team for the house and property. Paul is well versed

in the intricacies of planning having been the man behind our Xi Xi All Class Reunion and Golf Shoot Out for several years. He now will get to wrestle with a whole new set of challenges. We wish him good speed and God speed.

ED MATHENY'S '43 JUMP SHOT

If nothing else, Xi Xi alums can be surprising. Such is the case of Ed, who up to now has been far better known for his prowess in the practice of law. Recently he revealed that he was one of the first in the country to perfect the jump shot. We still have some living alumni who remember when the standard set shot in basketball was two feet firmly planted on the ground with the ball ejected from both hands. Nearly everyone shot this way into the early 1940s.

Ed, being 5'11", could have watched a lot of shots using the technique above being propelled back into his face by a defender. He caught word of the jump shot while in high school and perfected the one-handed leap and toss acrobatics. Ed's favorite move at Mizzou was to set sail from the corner, peeling his defender off using a screening teammate. When he hit the free throw line, he would stop, leap and fire the jump shot. His success with this new soaring heave drew much attention since, at the time, it was highly unusual. Ed had been recruited by Don Faurot to play football at Mizzou. Had he accepted, his type of foresight may have caused the Split-T to be developed earlier.



This antique photo shows Ed Matheny '43 leaping over a, probably amazed, defender shooting his "new" jump shot against a team from Ft. Leonard Wood.

McGuff-Led Group Wins Chancellor's Award

Somehow **Jonathan McGuff '15** has found time for graduate work, serving as Chapter advisor and being the graduate advisor to Rockin' Against Multiple Sclerosis. This organization, attached to the Harry S. Truman School of Public Affairs, recently received the Chancellor's Excellence Award for the most outstanding large organization on campus. The reasons are obvious. The group directly serves and funds those dealing with the disease. They set records for community service with more than 500 hours and monies raised of \$95,181. This sum represented a \$30,000 increase over the average in previous years. Jonathan indicates that these achievements were even more remarkable since February is the signature month for the group's efforts... and it snowed about every other day.



Chancellor Alexander Cartwright and Jonathan McGuff '15 at the Chancellor's Award Ceremony.



THE TIGER SIG



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THE CONSUL LOOKS BACK

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and a point system was devised to incentivize members. One of the main purposes of the judicial board, headed by the Pro Consul, was to hold participants responsible. The result was that 80% of the Chapter became active participants.

We focused on small victories as we worked through this process. Our scholarship program was in place within the first week of February. By the end of the month we had interfaced with headquarters. During April we were given permission to hold our scholarship banquet. In early May our Alcohol and Drug Education workshop was held. Little by little we climbed the Restorative Justice mountain.

By the end of the semester, we had accomplished all of our year-one goals. Involvement of the

active Chapter in house activities was higher than ever before. We had a cohesive strength that we had never seen before. Many challenges still stand before us but with our new executive committee in place and a unique foundation on which to build we will not just survive, we will thrive!

Opportunity, as it turns out, perfectly described our situation. I can assure you that Xi Xi will continue to grasp opportunity and build a Chapter stronger than ever before.

In hoc,
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