



Apr 8th, 2:35 PM - 3:35 PM

## **Labeling Sigma Pi: A Look at Stereotyping Fraternity Members at Illinois Wesleyan University**

Dane White  
*Illinois Wesleyan University*

Rebecca Gearhart, Faculty Advisor  
*Illinois Wesleyan University*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc>

---

White, Dane and Gearhart, Faculty Advisor, Rebecca, "Labeling Sigma Pi: A Look at Stereotyping Fraternity Members at Illinois Wesleyan University" (2006). *John Wesley Powell Student Research Conference*. 4.

<https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc/2006/posters2/4>

This Event is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been brought to you by Digital Commons @ IWU with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this material in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/ or on the work itself. This material has been accepted for inclusion by faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@iwu.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@iwu.edu).

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

Poster Presentation P76

**LABELING SIGMA PI: A LOOK AT STEREOTYPING FRATERNITY  
MEMBERS AT ILLINOIS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY**

Dane White and Rebecca Gearhart\*  
Anthropology Department, Illinois Wesleyan University

Stereotypes are encountered every day, especially on a college campus. When we see a physically fit male in a sports jersey, we think "jock." When we see a person carrying a musical instrument we think a "musician." When we see a guy wearing Greek letters we think "Frat Boy," a term usually associated with drunkenness and partying. A member of a fraternity is usually not considered to be part of a group of talented, motivated, diverse and relaxed individuals, or as members of Sigma Pi refer to themselves, as a group of "all right guys." On the campus of IWU in particular, the Sigma Pis have become known as the intelligent though somewhat eccentric fraternity. As one Sigma Pi member explained when asked how Sigma Pis are seen on this campus, "dork, not an athlete, or not a Sigma Chi," Sigma Chi being the generalized "jock" fraternity on campus. While such labels are often incorrect, it is true that Sigma Pi does look for a higher caliber of student with traits that compliment their house. Thus, Sigma Pi does in some respects self perpetuate the labels given to it by the community. Sigma Pi, like many fraternities is labeled both by the Illinois Wesleyan Community and by themselves with both negative and positive effects.