

THE OMICRON

CHAPTER OF PHI GAMMA DELTA - UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

WWW.UVAFIJI.ORG



GREETINGS FROM THE TEMPLE

by Ross Jacobson ('11) - Former Chapter President

Omicron had another eventful semester this past fall kicked off by several awards won at Ekklesia in July. The Chapter received first place in the Zerman Trophy in recognition of its involvement on Grounds and third place in the Baker Cup for high ethical and social service. We also took home honorable mentions in the Brightman Trophy for graduate relations and the Coon Plaque for our Chapter newsletter. Omicron's Purple Legionnaire, **Nick Feakins ('05)**, received Distinguished Service in the Durrance Award for his service to the Chapter. This recognition for Nick's work as Purple Legionnaire was not only well-deserved but also timely. This past fall marked Nick's final term in the role as he transitioned

the responsibilities over to **Tommy Hayne ('09)**. The Chapter is grateful for the four years of service Nick provided and looks forward to working with Tommy as he assumes this new role.

As always, this fall was filled with social and brotherhood events for the enjoyment of the undergraduate brothers and our guests. We hosted Endless Summer and Halloween events and a Christmas date function at the House as well as several tailgates before home football games. The Chapter looks forward to many more events this spring including a Parents' Weekend, Fourth-Year Tribute party, and of course Fiji Island.

Omicron continued its efforts to reach out to graduate brothers through Pig Dinner, a graduate tailgate, and a local informal graduate dinner this fall. We had twenty-eight graduate brothers in attendance at Pig Dinner that was again hosted at Sugarleaf Vine-

yards in October. We also held another dinner on the Corner with graduate brothers **Bob Goss ('73)**, **George Thomas ('57)**, and **Jeremy Rowe ('09)** to update them on recent Chapter events and learn more about the Chapter's history.

This November, we continued our tradition of excellence with the Run Across Virginia. The Chapter organized a charity night at Qdoba Mexican Grill and a powderpuff football tournament in the weeks leading up to the main event. On November 29th, we ran seventy miles from Charlottesville to Lynchburg to pass off



the Virginia vs. Virginia Tech game football to our Tech brothers. Through these efforts and the donations of alumni, family, friends, and corporate sponsors, we raised over \$43,000 for the Jimmy V Foundation for Cancer Research. In addition to our efforts with the Run, the Chapter supplemented its strong record of service to the Charlottesville community with a brotherhood cleanup of the Rivanna Trail in November.

We look forward to seeing many of you at our next graduate event, the weekend of the Virginia vs. Maryland lacrosse game, on April 2nd, 2011 as well as at the Foxfield Races on April 30th, 2011.

Thank You!

*Thank you to our 2010 donors...
together we raised over \$20K for Omicron!
See the back of this newsletter for a list of
our generous donors.*

UPCOMING GRADUATE EVENTS

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| April 2 nd | Virginia vs. Maryland Lacrosse Game |
| April 30 th | Foxfield Races and FIJI Island |
| June 4 th | Reunion Open House for Classes of '66, '71, '76, '81, '86, '91, '96, '01, and '06 |

GRADUATE NEWS



Andrew Garrahan ('05) returned to the Hook for Law School where he is in his first year. His wife Emily completed her MBA at Darden in May 2010 along with **Nick Feakins' ('05)** wife, Allie.

Alec Rothman ('06) has started in a Masters program for Communications at Johns Hopkins University. He's going to school part-time while continuing to work full-time for Greenpeace. His planned graduation date is December 2012 - if he can get back into the hawking, and assuming the world doesn't end.

Chris Dannen ('06) is working as a freelance writer for FastCompany magazine and CBS News online in New York. Lately his work has been taking him to the West Coast a lot, where he and **Yusuf Celik ('09)** and **John Yandziak ('06)** have had the opportunity to hang out and do nothing of any value.

After working at a corporate communications firm in Lima, Peru for a year, **Elio Jordan ('08)** (pictured left) decided it was time for a new challenge. He applied and was accepted to join Ensenaperu, an

organization based on the Teach for America model, which places young professionals in vulnerable-area public schools in Peru to teach for two years, with the goal of contributing to the improvement of public education in the country. Check out the website (you might see a familiar face): <http://ensenaperu.org/>



Elio Jordan ('08) teaching with "Ensenaperu"

Andrew Cooper ('09), Mark Hagedorn ('10), Doug Hill ('10), Spencer Sloan ('10), Kevin Dowlen ('10), Daniel Schear ('10), Tommy Hayne ('09), Eric Scofield ('10), Dan Reaves ('09), Michael Bartlett ('10), Kevin Russell ('10), Brad Howlett ('11), and Joe Vergara ('10) at Eric Scofield's wedding reception at the Belmont Country Club in Ashburn, Virginia.

Andy Cooper ('09), out from sunny southern California, spent a couple of days after Christmas in NYC with **Andrew Straitman ('09)** during the first snowstorm. **Brian Kinslow ('11)** and **Ross Jacobson ('11)** rode in from NJ for a night. Cooper is currently attempting to create a Fiji satellite house in Carlsbad, CA.

A Grand Phi Gam New Year's 2011 took place at the house of **Mike Headley ('08)**, **Thomas Barthelemy ('08)**, and **Robert Carlisle ('08)** in Arlington, VA. Also in attendance were **Patrick Edmunds**

Married Traveled
Ran Into a Brother ?
Engaged New Job Moved
New Baby Visiting Charlottesville

SUBMIT GRADUATE NEWS!

Send us your updates & photos:
<http://www.uvafiji.org/alumni/newsletters.php>

Update your address information and let your pledge brothers know how you are doing!

('05), **Matt Good** ('08), **Joe Toner** ('08), **Alex Lubin** ('08), **Jonathan Wills** ('08, '09), **Andy Cooper** ('09), **Chris Megaw** ('09), **Dan Reaves** ('09), **Jon Gokey** ('09), and **Jordan Baber** ('11), along with posettas aplenty. Suit up!

Eric Scofield ('10) recently hit his 6 months for both his marriage and job - pretty sick detes on both counts. Eric and his wife Kathleen spent many of their winter weekends on the slopes (including a 'Day of the Detes' vacation on 1/28), and they are looking forward to their upcoming Caribbean Cruise.

Spencer Sloan ('10) is looking forward to finishing up his 1L year at Columbia Law School. This July, Spencer will be honored to stand by his Zoo-mate and pledge brother, **Alex King** ('10), as a groomsman in Alex's wedding.

Tiago Bezerra ('10) married Taylor Burrow (Bezerra now) in July 2010 at the UVA chapel. The couple currently resides in Tysons Corner, VA with their two dogs. Tiago is now in law school at George Mason, working hard to get that J.D.

Jay Farris ('09), **Tommy Hayne** ('09), **Tiago Bezerra** ('10), **Harrison Powell** ('10), **Kevin Russell** ('10), **Eric Scofield** ('10) and friends celebrated the holidays together at the Bezerra's Christmas party in McLean, VA. Hoping to plan more Phi Gam get-togethers in the near future for all Northern Virginia beans.

Kevin Dowlen ('10) rolled 3900+ miles over 3 weeks in July to catch 3 of his pledge brothers' weddings. **Daniel Schear** ('10) got married in Cincinnati, Ohio followed by **Tiago Bezerra** ('10) at the Chapel in Charlottesville. **Eric Scofield** ('10) capped off the wed-

ding trek with a ceremony on July 24th in Ashburn, Virginia where Dowlen, **Harrison Powell** ('10), **Kevin Russell** ('10), and **Joe Vergara** ('10) served as groomsmen. It was a very pos roll overall with many detes created along the way.

David Backer ('10) will be starting graduate school at the University of Florida in August. He will be studying for a PhD in Electrical Engineering.

Four beans gathered in Mexico on 1/28 to celebrate a few 28th birthdays and Chris Anderson's upcoming March wedding to Jacqueline Lamb in McLean, VA. **Kevin Sproule** ('05), **Patrick Edmunds** ('05), **Chris Anderson** ('05), and **Grant Cupps** ('06) spent three days in Cancun and one day at one of the new seven wonders of the world amidst the Mayan ruins at Chichen Itza (pictured). Kevin hopes to complete his visits of these eight new wonders by seeing the five he has not yet visited with some more epic trips in 2011.



Kevin Sproule ('05), **Patrick Edmunds** ('05), **Chris Anderson** ('05), and **Grant Cupps** ('06) at Chichen Itza

Spencer Sloan ('10), **Kevin Dowlen** ('10), **Kevin Russell** ('10), **Tommy Hayne** ('09), and **Eric Scofield** ('10) at **Tiago Bezerra's** ('10) wedding reception.



RENOVATIONS UNDERWAY AT 128 MADISON LANE

There have been some important improvements to 128 Madison Lane since our last newsletter.

First, the front steps were replaced making the entrance to our Chapter House much nicer. For the past 15 years, the front steps have been deteriorating under the constant abuse of Fiji men, their guests, and the occasional flaming couch and wa-cheap. More recently, the reinforcing rods underneath the steps had become exposed, creating a significant safety hazard for Brothers and guests.

This summer we also sealed and repainted the roof and gutters to ensure decades of future deckmen, tankmen, and wharfmen have a dry place to sleep at night and that the improvements we have made inside the House aren't ruined by rain and weather.

If you read our annual giving letter in December, you heard about some recent water leaks from the second floor bathroom. The drains in the floor had eroded to the point that water was dripping into the downstairs kitchen and shorting out the lights. Thanks to your donations we were able to repair the bathroom over the holidays while brothers were home with their families. It has left our maintenance fund desperately low, however, and we expect to have to delay any repairs to the deck dormers till our reserves are replenished.

January 1st was the start of our 2011 fiscal year, and I hope you will join us in making sure the Fiji House remains the best on Grounds. Thanks to the support of our graduates in 2010, we were able to complete two planned maintenance projects and one emergency repair.

We have made a concerted effort over the last 5 years to grow our graduate participation and over 95 graduates gave this past year. Whether you are donating \$128 or \$5,000, we hope you will show your pride in the Chapter by giving to the Annual Fund and supporting these projects.



It is always great to see the faces of Graduate Brothers who come back for Pig Dinner and Reunions and see their surprise and pride in the condition of our House. The reality today is that both a strong Chapter and a strong graduate base are needed to keep our historic House in a condition that we can all be proud of.

Thank you to all those Brothers who have given in the past – and continue to give. Those Brothers who supported the Annual Fund in 2010 are listed at the end of this newsletter and their generosity is very much appreciated. **PERGE!**

NEW PURPLE LEGIONNAIRE

It has been a great honor serving as your Purple Legionnaire for the past 4 years. I have enjoyed meeting and working with the many dedicated and capable Brothers – both graduate and undergraduate – who give their time to the betterment of Omicron and Phi Gamma Delta.

Coming up on the 10th anniversary of our re-founding, it is exciting to look back and see the progress that the chapter has made. It has certainly been a successful few years for Omicron, filled with two Cheney Cup wins, a host of other Phi Gamma Delta awards, multiple IFC Best Overall Chapter and Most Improved Chapter awards, a High Point Championship, a number of individual brother and graduate achievement awards, an annual Run Across VA that brings in more than the rest of the fraternities' philanthropies combined, and of course, some epic Fiji Islands. I can sum it

up in one word, **Excellence.**

All of these achievements have made me very proud to call myself a Fiji. Our achievements have come as the result of a lot of hard work and effort from the brotherhood as a whole as well as individual brothers and graduates. It has been wonderful to see and experience firsthand the sacrifices these brothers make for the betterment of others.

The Board of Chapter Advisors has grown over the past few years, and **Tommy Hayne ('09)**, who has been an integral member since graduating, has accepted the position of Purple Legionnaire as of Jan 1st. In the past 30 days, Tommy has already attended a Fiji Academy and coordinated a day long orientation for our incoming executive officers.

In speaking with Tommy, he is looking forward to working with the Chapter to increase graduate attendance at Pig Dinner, tailgates, and other events. He is also very interested in finding ways for recent graduates to remain involved with the chapter.

And of course, making sure the Chapter doesn't burn itself down is always a top priority.

If you don't know Tommy, I hope you will go ahead and mark your calendar for the UVA vs Maryland Lacrosse game or next year's Pig Dinner and come see firsthand the chapter's progress. If you would like help in reaching out to your pledge brothers, let us know, and we can assist you.

Lastly, many thanks to all the graduates and brothers who have worked hard to get the chapter where it is today, have shown persistence in the face of many challenges, and remain dedicated to the ideals of Phi Gamma Delta. I am confident that with the help and support of the chapter and its graduates, Tommy will be very successful in his role and Omicron will continue to excel at the University of Virginia for another 150 years!

PERGE!

Nick Feakins '05

FALL / SPRING RUSH

Last spring we reported that the IFC was reconsidering fall rush due to fewer and fewer chapters participating in the official rush period and overall declining numbers of upperclassmen rushees. This fall, Omicron also decided to forgo the official fall rush period and instead focus on Phi Gamma Delta's tradition of Rush 365. Rather than host the usual open house and week of rush events, the chapter invited a select number of upperclassmen to fraternity events throughout the fall in the hope of building excitement for spring rush. As a result, a record number of upperclassmen and first years visited Omicron during the spring open house. Over 750 rushees passed through 128 Madison Lane in just 2 days!

In general, the chapter is looking forward to a large spring pledge class after a semester free of pledge education. Although it was strange not having a fall class, it allowed the chapter to do some detailed planning and prepare for a pledge class of 26 in the spring!

*Please join us in congratulating
the next class of Omicron's
Executive Officers*

President: Rick Forshaw

Treasurer: Alex Loeb

Recording Secretary: Nick Wood

Corresponding Secretary: Collin Rhea

Historian: Taylor Scholz

GREEK NEWS AT UVA

- On April 18, 2009, the Virginia Chapter of Delta Upsilon announced plans to construct the first new fraternity house built at the University of Virginia in over fifty years (pictured right).
- DU acquired and demolished a 1950s-era apartment building located at 135 Madison Lane that was considered architecturally inappropriate for the historic district, and began construction of a new home for its chapter in the fall of 2009. DU's new house has 7,000 square feet of living space on three floors. It is of neo-classical design, featuring brick construction, a columned two-story portico, and a standing-seam metal roof. Inside, there are fifteen single bedrooms, two of which are accessible for the disabled.
- DU sold its house at 180 Rugby Road back to its original owner, Beta Theta Pi, who is currently completing major renovations on the house. Beta plans to return to their house this spring.
- When Beta moves, the property at 129 Chancellor (the old DTD house) will be available. There has been significant interest in other groups taking possession of the 129 Chancellor property, but no final sale or announcement has been made. All the moving feels a bit like fraternity monopoly.
- At present, there are no plans to add any new IFC chapters this semester, although there have been rumors of Sigma Phi Epsilon (SPE) returning as a local fraternity. The ISC will welcome the 16th national sorority, Sigma Delta Tau, this semester. SDT was previously on Grounds in the 1980s and they are currently in the midst of their re-colonization efforts.



DU's new Chapter House is located at the North end of Madison Lane. DU brothers moved into the house in September.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Last spring the Chapter began an undergraduate scholarship program, paid for solely from the dues of Omicron's undergraduate members. Thirteen brothers applied for the \$50 scholarship this fall, and the Scholarship Committee selected **RJ Hill ('12)** for the award based on outstanding merit. It is our hope going forward to augment this scholarship with donations from our graduate brothers. Scholarship is an important aspect of our Fraternity, and we hope this award will grow over time to recognize and assist more deserving Brothers. If you would like to make a donation to the Omicron Chapter Scholarship, please contact Scholarship Chair **Julian Wills (jaw6cm@virginia.edu)**. The Chapter can work with Phi Gamma Delta's Educational Foundation to ensure your donation is tax deductible or meets other estate planning needs.

AWARDS

The Chapter received **first place in the Zerman Trophy** in recognition of its involvement on Grounds and **third place in the Baker Cup** for high ethical and social service. We also took home **honorable mentions in the Brightman Trophy** for graduate relations and the **Coon Plaque** for our Chapter newsletter. Omicron's Purple Legionnaire, **Nick Feakins ('05)**, **honorable mention in the Durrance Award** for his service to the Chapter.

The Chapter also received awards from the Inter-Fraternity Council for **Outstanding Philanthropy, Outstanding Contribution to the University, and Outstanding Faculty Advisor**.

GRADUATE ANNUAL GIVING

FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010 (JAN. 1 - DEC. 31)

Special thanks to the following graduates for their gifts to the Omicron Chapter's annual fund over the last year. We hope you will continue to support FIJI and encourage your fellow Brothers to join in the effort!

\$5,000 +

Stephen E. Naus '72

\$2,500 +

John M. Stewart '65

\$1,000 +

Jeffrey R. Anderson '69

Jack William Burkart '73

Neil H. McPherson '87

Whitney De Bardeleben '74

\$500 +

William C. Childress '58*

John A. Poulson, Jr. '78

Peter J. Dunne '80

Robert K. Krout '80

Steven G. Vittorio '84

Timothy E. Martorella '87

Douglas E. Milman '87

** Indicates a Club 128 member (ongoing monthly donor)*

\$250 +

Gordon L. Gentry, Jr. '59

William R. Easton '65*

Charles W. Randall '68

James S. Ryan '76

Michael L. Woosley, Jr. '91

Chun Mo Kim '93

Kenneth Douglass Lum '93

Kevin L. Beicke '01

Jeremy D. Hogg '03*

Greg A. Dolinsky '04*

Jonathan Tyler Zieffle '05*

Andrew E. Cooper '09

\$128 +

William M. Ballard '50

A. Colquitt Shackelford, Jr. '51

David M. Wakelee '51

John H. Willis, Jr. '51

John A. Koenig '53

Edwin C. Muhly, Jr. '53

Charles B. Arrington, Jr. '55

James G. Hunter, Jr. '55

Charles H. Rohrer '55

Edward T. Bedford '64

John T. Mickle '64

David Livingston '65

Llewellyn P. Haden, Jr. '66

Charles K. Fox '66

Dr. James M. McDiarmid '66

George H. Gromel, Jr. '68

Herbert P. Soles '68

R. Michael Sorensen '70

Carl Helmetag III '70

George E. Cramer '71

Jon C. Butler '72

Robert B. Goss '73

Frederick D. Iselin '73

James D. Wilson '74

William S. Armistead '75

George E. Holland '76

G. Chandler Fox, Jr. '79

Ian S. Lawton '80

David P. Morris '80

Steven K. Souders '83

George E. Collins '84

Michael H. Dillon '84

Frank F. Petz '84

Jeffrey P. White '85

Eugene Paul Kennedy '90

Matthew S. Daniel '91

Justin L. Cashman III '93

Jamison T. Driver '99

Albert H. Huntington IV '00

Nicholas P. Feakins '05

Christopher W. Anderson '05*

Andrew D. Garrahan '05*

Michael C. Outten '05*

Christopher T. Walters '05*

Jesse C. Lund '06

Kyle S. Fuschetti '06*

Jonathan R. Hilliard '07

Terry E. Schnuck, Jr. '07

Thomas R. Hayne '09

Mark H. Longenecker III '09

Kevin Simmons Dowlen '10

\$28 +

Andrew V. McLaglen '43

Alton W. Powell '50

H. Winston Holt III '53

Bruce A. Talmadge '53

Blake Howe '55

Carroll M. Berndt, Jr. '56

Stephen M. Hoster '64

John K. Pegues IV '71

Derick V. Coupe '72

Jeffrey L. Brown '76

Michael L. Petretich '93

Christopher S. Johnson '03

Adam G. Swann '03*

Kyle A. Sturgeon '04*

Jay R. Farris '09

David C. Backer '10

Daniel W. Schear '10

Tiago D. Bezerra '10

Please join your pledge brothers in making sure the Fiji Temple remains strong for generations to come. Many thanks to the Graduates who prove that Phi Gamma Delta is not for college days alone!

If we have mistakenly forgotten your name, please contact us at: giving@uvafiji.org.

MAKE AN ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION

Gifts to the FIJI Annual Fund sponsor alumni communications, reunions and house improvements.

Make a gift online at: www.uvafiji.org