


# THE OMICRON

CHAPTER OF PHI GAMMA DELTA - UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA  
WWW.UVAFIJI.ORG

## GREETINGS FROM THE TEMPLE

by Rick Forshaw '12 - Chapter President



Fall 2011 was another successful semester for Omicron. After a successful formal recruitment and pledge semester last spring, the chapter was positioned to do great things with a larger, stronger brotherhood. While a larger membership base offered great opportunities to develop stronger chapter programs, it also challenged the brotherhood to maintain individual brother involvement and to stimulate new brothers to develop as chapter leaders. By highlighting some of the chapter's successes from the semester, I hope to demonstrate that Omicron remains committed to excellence within the Greek system at the University of Virginia.

Under the guidance of **Graham Williams ('12)**, the chapter's annual Pig Dinner was a resounding success. With a record number of RSVPs, the chapter was excited to host the event at the fraternity house this year instead of an offsite location. Dinner, dancing, and reunions with graduates of many different eras created a great atmosphere that everyone enjoyed. Prior to Pig Dinner, the class of 1991 returned to the Temple for its 20 year reunion during reunions weekend in June. As a token of appreciation for staying at the chapter house during the weekend, **Mark Schuer**, **Matt Reynolds** and the other graduates of 1991 raised a significant sum of money that went to purchasing a new chow table for the chapter house. The gift has been a hit with the underbeans, as it is used for nightly house chow.

The chapter's philanthropy program, directed by **Ross Heller ('12)** coordinated one of the most successful Run Across Virginia to date. By encouraging brothers to write donation letters, Ross and the philanthropy committee were able to catalyze over \$22,000 in donations to the Jimmy V Foundation for cancer research. The RAV itself was a great brotherhood event for the chapter, as over 40 brothers returned to the Hook over Thanksgiving break to partici-

pate in the RAV and then watch the UVA/VT football game. Also, **Alex Loeb ('12)**, **Bill Sutton ('12)**, **Rick Forshaw ('12)** and **Ross Heller ('12)** were able to present the donation on the field before the game at Scott Stadium. Overall, the philanthropy committee directed an awesome fundraising effort, and has set a high standard for following years.

Other committees also managed to achieve excellent results during the course of the semester. The fraternity's intermural sports chairman, **Daniel Flanary ('13)**, helped to coach the chapter to a first place standing in the fraternity league standings. The chapter's social chairmen, **Colin Leslie ('14)** and **Johnny Hartranft ('14)** coordinated social events for the chapter that were fun, safe, well-planned, and well attended by UVA students.

Overall, the chapter has exceeded expectations this semester. Along with the successes I outlined above, the chapter will benefit from 27 tenants in the house next year, and Omicron looks to welcome a minimum of 20 new pledges to the fraternity in February. All the successes of the chapter could not be possible, however, without graduate support and financial assistance. I would like to thank all those graduates who give their time, money, and effort on behalf of the chapter. The fraternity has been the defining and most enjoyable part of my time at UVA and it could not be possible without your generosity. Thank you.

PERGE,

**Rick Forshaw ('12)**, *Chapter President*

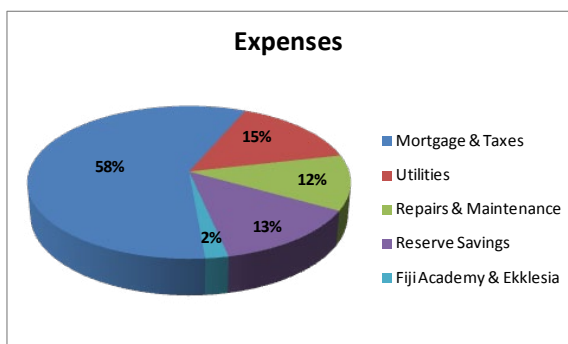
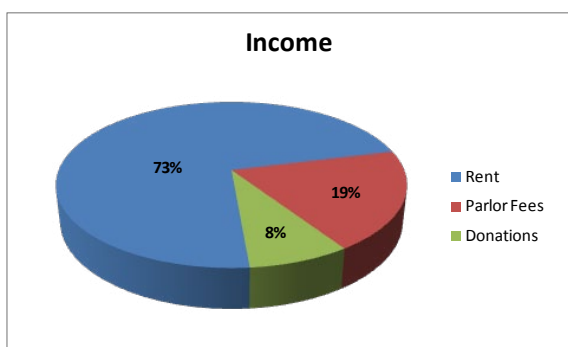
Annual Pig Dinner 2011



# HOUSE CORPORATION UPDATE

The Omicron Chapter House Society, or House Corporation, is made up of nine graduate brothers and three undergraduate brothers. The House Corporation operates with three objectives in mind: the safety of our Brothers and guests; the longevity of the Omicron Chapter at UVA; and the care and maintenance of the Chapter House. We view the Chapter House as our brothers' most valuable possession. It provides a home for all brothers to return to – even after graduation.

The House Corporation receives funds from three sources: rent, parlor fees, and donations. In 2001, we completed renovations that allowed us to expand the number of brothers living in the house to 26 (although the chapter will be fitting 27 in next year!). All brothers are charged parlor fees for use of the house. We do everything possible to keep rent and parlor fees affordable for our brothers and your donations help make that possible.



We also work hard to keep our expenses low. Other than mortgage, taxes, and utilities, one of our largest expenses is basic repairs and maintenance. This fall, we hired Piedmont Facilities Management (PFM) to take over maintenance of the Chapter House. In the past, we relied on a general contractor who did not charge a fee unless his services were needed. This arrangement made smaller repairs very expensive, which often resulted in us delaying maintenance or attempting repairs ourselves. Over the summer we conducted a comprehensive search for a new facility management firm. It was important to find a company that understood the unique needs of a fraternity and could still provide superior service at lower costs. PFM manages over 30 properties in Charlottesville and came highly recommended from other fraternities and sororities. In addition to being much more affordable, PFM also provides a 5 and 10 year asset plan that enables us to save for larger improvements – such as replacing a roof or buying new kitchen equipment.

Overall, we plan for the Chapter's parlor fees and rent to cover the majority of house expenses. However, some larger renovations depend on graduate donations to make them possible. Over the course of the next 5 years, with your support, we hope to replace the dormers and windows in the Deck, which have rotted through. We feel that the plans we have put in place will ensure that 128 Madison Lane is still providing a welcome home to brothers and graduates 150 years from now.

## CHAPTER AWARDS

In 2011, Omicron won an honorable mention fraternity-wide in the **Coon Plaque** for outstanding chapter publications, as well as an honorable mention in the **Zerman Trophy** for promoting brothers' campus involvement. These awards are in addition to the **Outstanding Philanthropy** and **Outstanding Chapter President (Ross Jacobson '11)** awards that the chapter won last semester from UVA's Inter-fraternity Council.

## 2012 CHAPTER OFFICERS

### PRESIDENT

Clark O'Bannon ('13) of Charlotte, NC

### TREASURER

Edward Sampognaro ('13) of New Orleans, LA

### RECORDING SECRETARY

Collin Rhea ('13) of Atlanta, GA

### CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Matt Boegner ('14) of Richmond, VA

### HISTORIAN

Michael Stolz ('13) of Virginia Beach, VA

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE  
NEW EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

## FIJI GRAD BIKES ACROSS COUNTRY TO RAISE AWARENESS

This past summer, **Brandon Cline '08** biked 3,600 miles across country in honor of his father, Larry, who has frontotemporal degeneration (FTD). Brandon began his journey on June 18th, from our very own Charlottesville, VA and arrived in Portland, OR on August 22nd, having raised more than \$4,000 for the Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration (AFTD). Equipped with a small tent and sleeping bag, Brandon camped the majority of the trip, setting up camp in town parks, behind churches, or the occasional willing person's backyard. Brandon also made use of helpful hosting sites like Couchsurfing.org and Warmshowers.org. Brandon says the best part of the trip was the people he met along the way. "I was amazed at how strangers were so gracious to offer me their food, beds, and homes. One of my favorite examples is a young couple in middle-of-nowhere Kansas whom I found through CouchSurfing.org. I ended up helping them move the cows from one pasture to another and feeding their goats, geese, and chickens (all firsts for me). Then, out of the blue, the woman invited me to her mother's birthday party that night! So I piled in a jeep with the husband and wife and her father, mother, two brothers, one brother's baby son and the other's girlfriend. We went to a small pizza shop, the husband immediately ordered a round of shots, and we spent the rest of the night enjoying each others' company over pizza and Blue Moons. I became a member of her family for a night. Amazing."

The most challenging part of the trip for Brandon turned out to be the headwinds. "I didn't realize this when planning my trip, but prevailing winds travel west to east. My direction? Of course, east to west. The most intense winds were in Wyoming. It wasn't that they were just physically challenging, but they also had a strong mental effect. Needless to say, it was



**Brandon Cline '08** finishing his ride across the US to raise money for the Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration (AFTD).

a great practice in patience - getting frustrated wasn't making me go any faster, so I figured I might as well accept that the wind is as much a part of the terrain as mountains or valleys." As for advice to those contemplating biking across country, Brandon responds, "If you have any interest in it, go for it! Tell everyone that you're going to do it, so they can encourage you to get out there. Don't worry about top-of-the-line gear; an old road or mountain bike frame and sturdy wheels will do. Give yourself 2.5 to 4 months. Take your time. Take smaller roads, but not gravel roads. Meet people. Smile. And carry pepper spray for the dogs in Kentucky."

For more information on FTD, please visit AFTD's website at [www.theaftd.org](http://www.theaftd.org).

## TEST YOUR TEMPLE KNOWLEDGE

Clark O'Bannon

Beans, think you can remember everything that you once knew (or should have known) as an undergrad? Freshen up on some of the detes here. For some of the more pos beans, this information may be new to you, so enjoy. *Answers found on page 6.*

Q: In what year was the Temple originally built? When was the addition done?

Q: How many stairs are there in the house **total**?

Q: How many Gammas are currently in the house as permanent fixtures?

Q: What color are the stairs painted?

Q: What is the phone number to the house?

Q: What year was the infamous Dictor's Retort painted? By whom? What does it say?

Q: What color is the foyer painted?

Q: How many skylights are in the house?

Q: Name all of the neighbors surrounding the house.

Q: How many basketball courts does the house have?

# GRADUATE NEWS

**Kevin Russell ('10), Joe Vergara ('10), Stu Keech ('11), Kevin Dowlen ('10), Eric Scofield ('10),** Eric's wife Kathleen, Elizabeth Colonna, **Spencer Sloan ('10),** Maggie Shear, and **Daniel Schear ('10)** at **Alex King's ('10)** wedding in Cincinnati, Ohio on July 23, 2011.



**David Walrath ('05)** is stationed in Atsugi, Japan, which is about an hour outside of Tokyo. After the earthquake and tsunami on March 11th, he helped to coordinate the U.S. Military's humanitarian response to the disaster, known as Operation Tomodachi. Recently he's traveled to South Korea and Vietnam to do engagements with the navies of both countries. If any beans are coming to Tokyo, he says to drop him a line!

**Stu Keech ('11)** is working for Rolls-Royce in Indianapolis, Indiana. He is in the performance division, working on small aircraft and military jet engines.

**Steve Driskill ('06)** recently finished law school at George Mason University School of Law and passed the Virginia Bar in July. He currently lives in Fairfax, VA, with his wife Morgan (UVA Zeta, '09) and works at Muncy, Geissler, Olds, & Lowe with fellow Omicron Fiji alum **Dan Podhajny ('03)** doing patent law. He is also psyched to have his life back after school, and looking forward to more frequent trips to the hook and the temple.

**Eric Howlett '08, Kevin Dowlen ('10), and Graham Williams ('12)** rolled down to Daufuskie Island, South Carolina on a summer golf vacation to tackle Jack Nicklaus' (Ohio State '61) famed Melrose Course. The course got the better of the Fijis, as broken clubs and lost balls outnumbered the eagles and birdies.



**Kit Henningsen ('74)** just got new plates: VA FIJI - beats the crap out of the old VW Squareback he had when he lived in the house. The new plates were inspired by his daughter Jane (UVA - AXO - 2010). **Mike Perry ('11)** has been for a cruise.



## SUBMIT GRADUATE NEWS!

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

## CONTACT US

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## GRADUATE ANNUAL GIVING

Brothers,

Over the past 10 years, we have focused much of our efforts on keeping graduates connected with both the Chapter and each other. We started by enlisting the help of Alumni Hall to keep better track of our graduates, and to improve our communications. As a result, our chapter newsletters are more consistent, more informative, and quite frankly, more likely to reach your mailbox.

At the same time, we also set about enlisting more recent graduates to participate in the Board of Chapter Advisors (BCA). These recent graduates are often former executive officers and volunteer their time to assist the Chapter and its officers in improving chapter operations. They host the annual Officer Orientation, and remain involved with the Chapter throughout the rest of the year as advisors.

The BCA has also been of great assistance in organizing and promoting our graduate events, including Pig Dinner, Foxfield, Reunions, and smaller get-togethers in cities like D.C. and Richmond. We are always looking for feedback and suggestions on things we could do better. In particular, we would like to hear your thoughts on Pig Dinner and what we could do to encourage more graduates to return. Please visit <http://uvafiji.org/alumni> to give us your thoughts. While you are there, please also submit a personal update that we can include in the next newsletter!

One of the most difficult things for any graduate to do is to ask another graduate for money. It can be even more difficult when talking to recent graduates who are just starting out on their own. But one of the things we have heard over and over again is, "I'd give if I felt like more of my graduate brothers were also giving". We realized that "giving participation" is sometimes just as important as the amount given.

As a result, we established the Fiji Annual Fund through Alumni Hall. This fund allows us to collect one-time and recurring donations that support graduate communications, reunions, and chapter house improvements. Many graduates choose to join Club 128, an honorary designation for anyone who signs up for recurring monthly gifts. The gifts don't have to be huge; a popular amount is \$18.58 or \$28 a month. But these recurring gifts have a huge impact on our ability to continue hosting graduate events and mailing these newsletters to over 850 active graduates each semester.

If you gave in 2011, thank you very much, we hope you were proud to hear about the continued success of the Chapter and were able to make it back for one of our events this year. If you are considering whether to give in 2012, trust me when I say the Chapter is made up of some very impressive young gentlemen and that you would be proud to visit 128 Madison Lane. I hope you will join me in Club 128 by establishing ongoing donations through Alumni Hall at <http://uvafiji.org/alumni>.

PERGE,

**Nick Feakins '05**

President,

Omicron Chapter House Society

## SUPPORT THE OMICRON CHAPTER

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

**Make your 2012 gift today!**

Use the enclosed form or donate online at:

[www.uvafiji.org](http://www.uvafiji.org)

The image shows a sample of a membership form for the Omicron Chapter of Phi Gamma Delta at Marshall University. The form includes fields for Name, Address, City/State, and Zip. It also has a section titled "What's New with You?" and a "Home Office" section with a URL. The form is tilted and has a white arrow pointing from the text "Use the enclosed form" towards it.

# GRADUATE DONORS FOR 2011 (JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31)

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

## 1000 +

Jack William Burkart '73

## 500 +

Douglas R. Sowers '74

Peter J. Dunne '80

Robert K. Krout '80

David Dong-Oh Suh '93

## 250 +

A. Colquitt Shackelford, Jr. '51

Herbert P. Soles '68

Eugene P. Kennedy '90

David S. Simon '91

Kevin L. Biecke '01

Jeremy D. Hogg '03\*

Greg A. Dolinsky '04\*

Andrew E. Cooper '09

## 128 +

David M. Wakelee '51

John A. Koenig '53

Edwin C. Muhly, Jr. '53

James G. Hunter, Jr., MD '55

James F. McCabe, Jr. '55

Charles H. Rohrer '55

William C. Childress '58

Edward T. Bedford '64

Richard E. Evans '64

William R. Easton '65

David Livingston '65

James M. McDiarmid, PhD '66

Edwin L. Underwood '69

Carl Helmetag, III '70

R. Michael Sorensen '70

George E. Cramer '71

Robert B. Gross '73

William S. Armistead '75

George E. Holland '76

Richard D. Holden '80

Erik H. Kisa, MD '80

Eris S. Stange '80

Michael H. Dillon '84

Peter M. Pasley '84

Barry W. Bruckman '88

Matthew S. Daniel '91

Michael L. Woosley, Jr. '91

Con Way Ling '92

Gregory E. Scharer '94

Christopher W. Anderson '05\*

Nicholas P. Feakins '05

Michael C. Outten '05\*

David T. Walrath '05

Kevin S. Dowlen '10\*

Ross A. Jacobson '11

## 28 +

H. Hunter Kennard '49

Kenneth B. Gore '53

H. Winston Holt, III '53

Bruce A. Talmadge, MD '53

Stephen M. Hoster '64

George H. Gromel, Jr. '68

Jeffrey L. Brown '76

James M. Metcalfe '94

Matthew J. Allman '08

Joel D. Swider '08

Evan P. Rust '11

Noah S. Scherz '11

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

*If we have mistakenly forgotten your name, please contact us at [giving@uvafiji.org](mailto:giving@uvafiji.org).*

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!



On Saturday, Jan 21st, members of the Board of Chapter Advisors (BCA) hosted the incoming Executive Officers for their annual Officer Orientation. This day long retreat ensures that the incoming officers understand their responsibilities and are prepared for the challenges of leading a fraternity. The fact that we have a strong Officer Orientation really sets Omicron apart from other chapters, and is one of the reasons for our continued growth and success both at UVA and in Fijiland.

### *Answers to the Temple Knowledge Quiz:*

1. 1905 and 1929, respectively
2. 91. Don't forget about the 5 locked up in the boiler room that most brothers have never seen!
3. 3, two on the staircases, and one on the plaque above the Tube Room fireplace commemorating brothers who served in WWI.
4. Spanish Raisin
5. 434-984-0128
6. 1972. Chris Morris. "Dictor you have real style", "Oh, Madame is too kind... I know my shortcomings... I'm too mechanical"
7. Churchill Hotel Ivory
8. 2, one in the Presidents Room and one in the wHarf.
9. Starting with the back and moving counter clockwise: Chi Omega, ATO, St. Elmo's Hall, The Booker House, St. Johns Church.
10. 2, one in the back, and one in The Deck.