

# THE OMICRON

CHAPTER OF PHI GAMMA DELTA - UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

WWW.UVAFIJI.ORG



## GREETINGS FROM THE TEMPLE

by Clark O'Bannon ('13) | Chapter President

For many houses on grounds, the fall semester of each year stands to be a difficult time. With no rush to rally behind early on, cold weather approaching, and Foxfield a whole 6 months away (Islander as well!), brotherhood involvement and unity can drop off significantly. This is not something that we have to face here at The Temple. The brotherhood's enthusiasm towards the house this semester is at an all time high, and this has shown through a number of events.

Led by **Tim Hilliard ('14, incoming Historian)** and **Brandon Moores ('14)**, our annual Pig Dinner this fall was great success.

Attended by graduates both old and new, as well as our current Section Chief, the number of Beans that traveled back to Charlottesville for the event speaks to the high level of graduate psyche that we have behind the house. The slogan "not for college days alone" rang true on that October evening, and it is not an event that I would plan to miss next year!

The Run Across Virginia served as the strongest event our brotherhood could unite behind for the second half of the semester. Led by **Nicholas Allen ('14)** and **Walter Metzinger ('14, incoming Rec. Secretary)**, we raised over \$22,000 for the

V Foundation to fuel the fight against cancer. Per usual, the actual Run itself was a great time for all involved, however just this year we were also featured in local radio stations, CBS and NBC evening news broadcasts, the Cavalier Daily, and the Charlottesville Daily Progress front-page. As our publicity for the event continues to pick up, we expect donations from both corporate and private donors to rise.

This semester also allowed us to continue our service partnerships with two different organizations. The brotherhood spent one Saturday afternoon helping out the fire station down the street, and then enjoyed a cookout with the firefighters afterwards, which resulted in some great stories being swapped from both sides. Later in the semester, we teamed up with the Charlottesville parks and recreation department to work on building walking trails throughout the nearby neighborhoods, a project we hope to continue.

Despite all of these well run events this past semester, our resounding brotherhood success stems from the ongoing weekly commitment to the house that each brother gives. The amount of time that we spend together is strongly correlated with the strong and lasting ties we build, and every brother in our house now is committed to building these relationships.

I want to thank each and every one of you for your continued support to the house. The donations that come in are what keep us moving forward on the track to success. Stay tuned in February for updates on what promises to be another successful rush and, as always, please remember to stop by The Temple whenever you are in town. For most of us, reliving past times and sharing stories with our graduates is one of our favorite things to do.

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I hope you enjoy receiving the chapter's semester newsletters, and I hope you have shared your email address with us so we can remind you of upcoming events like Pig Dinner. But one of the most effective ways we can connect to our graduates is through Facebook. It allows us to quickly inform you of chapter accomplishments, tailgates and dinners, and other graduate news. It's also a lot less expensive than mailings, which means more of your donations and undergraduate dues go directly to the chapter.

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# GRADUATE NEWS

**Sam Marney Jr. ('55)** and wife Betty are still enjoying retirement 4 years out. They are currently preparing for a 10-day trip to Tahiti the end of January. They hope to see some of you when they come to The Univ. in April for the reunion of the Virginia Gentlemen; I couldn't get in now, but it was less selective when we started in 1953!

**John Spear ('63)** is presently working in the travel office for the USMC in Quantico, VA. Sold my meeting planning and incentive travel company in November 2010. Retired but decided to stay active and go back to work.

**Kit Henningsen ('74)** recently retired – after 37 years in the food business (selling industrial ingredients) and having been to 46 countries I'm taking a brief time out. I will eventually become a professional mattress tester, wine taster, and Dictator of whatever country I visit next. Hope to see you at Pig Dinner!

**William Gerstmyer ('79)** was promoted 3 years running in the over-the-hill soccer league (250,000) players – helping me keep the dream alive. Cheers and Congrats to all the 2012 beans!

**George Collins ('84, '87, '92)** and his wife Marketa live in Prague, Czech Republic. They are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter, Julie, in August 2012.

**Robert Rascoll (Tim) ('91)** is back in Virginia after 3 great years in the Coronado community of San Diego. Hope to get my family to a UVa ball game this fall! Also (unfortunately) back at the Pentagon.

**Jamie Driver ('99)** lives in Brooklyn with his wife Lauren and his two daughters Isla, 5 years old, and Josephine, 2 years old. After selling his online advertising agency Morpheus Media in 2011, Jamie started his own digital marketing consulting firm Jamie Driver LLC in 2012. Please reach out at [www.linkedin.com/in/jamiedriverllc](http://www.linkedin.com/in/jamiedriverllc)

**Cam Coleman ('11)** survived the first semester of medical school at UVA along with **Josh Jolissaint ('11)**, **Jack Farhi ('11)**, and **Alex Loeb ('12)**.



**James Haskett ('82)**, Connie and Daniel moved from Cincinnati, Ohio to Tybee Island, Georgia in July 2012. Daniel will be rushing Fiji at Miami University in the spring. James is a Global Brand Strategy consultant. Would love to get back in touch with Mark Hayes and Patrick Hagan.

**Matt Allman ('08)** and longtime UVa sweetheart Tanya Otsuka were married on 12-8-2012 at the UVa Chapel.

**Elio Jordan ('08)** completed his 2-year teaching commitment with EnseñaPerú, teaching English and Spanish verbal reasoning in low-income and vulnerable area high schools outside of Lima, Peru. He received the "Almirante Miguel Grau" National Award in October 2012, granted by the Peruvian Navy and Telefónica del Perú as part of the National Campaign for Values "Somos Grau, Seámoslo Siempre," recognized in the category of Loyalty. And he was interviewed by El Comercio newspaper on June 19, 2012 for my academic and professional achievements, including attending U.Va., and his decision to become a teacher of EnseñaPerú.



**Harrison Powell ('10)** wed Chi-O Heather Klein in an early-October ceremony at the Briar Patch Bed and Breakfast in Middleburg, VA. Fellow pledge-brothers - and Quartet members - **Joe Vergara ('10)**, **Kevin Russell ('10)**, and **Eric Scofield ('10)** served as Harry's groomsmen. Other Phi Gams in attendance included **Tommy Hayne ('09)**, **Daniel Schear ('10)**, **Alex King ('10)**, **Spencer Sloan ('10)**, **Mark Hagedorn ('10)**, **Kevin Dowlen ('10)**, **Doug Hill ('10)**, and **Tiago Bezerra ('10)**.

# GRADUATE NEWS

**Patrick Edmunds ('05)** married Katie Smith ('08) on November 17th in a beautiful ceremony at the UVA Chapel followed by a reception at King's Family Vineyards. The wedding party was full of fellow Fijis: **Dan Laufer ('06)**, **Will Hazlett ('06)**, **Nathan Foley ('06)**, **Kevin Sproule ('05)**, **Chris Anderson ('05)**. And the many Fiji guests included **Nick Feakins ('05)**, **Andrew Garrahan ('05)**, **David Pack ('05)**, **Nick Kristoff ('06)**, **Grant Cupps ('06)**, **Jonathan Hilliard ('07)**, **Amir Shahien ('07)**, **Jonathan Wills ('08)**, **Robert Carlisle ('08)**. Of course, no Fiji wedding is complete until the groom has been pied (multiple times).

Photo Credit: Cramer Photo



**Andy Cooper ('09)** finished up 11.5 months deployed in sunny southwestern Afghanistan in January, working in counter-improvised explosive device (CIED) efforts. Special thanks to the many brothers who wrote, sent "Christmas gifts", and met up on R&R - looking forward to seeing you all again soon!

## SUPPORT THE OMICRON CHAPTER

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

### Make your 2013 gift today!

Use the enclosed form or donate online at:  
[www.uvafiji.org](http://www.uvafiji.org)

Please join us in supporting  
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**What's New with You?**  
Share your dates for inclusion in our newsletters. (You can also submit updates online!)

Donate Online at - <http://hoosonline.virginia.edu>

2012 Annual Fund

Payment Method:  Credit Card (below)  \_\_\_\_\_

Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: Contributions to the fund will receive all the benefits of membership.

# 2013 FIJI ACADEMY REPORT

Tim Hilliard ('14)  
Omicron Historian

Every January Fijis gather from across the nation to promote the values and best practices of our Fraternity and to prepare the incoming class of leaders for their roles in their respective chapters. For the last ten years, the Fiji Academy has taken place in St. Louis, and several weeks ago I found myself there alongside incoming President **Andrew Leach ('14)** and Recruitment Co-Chairman **Neil Blanchard ('14)**. Together we had the proud privilege of representing Omicron.

Including close to 100 Graduate Brothers—many of whom are Field Secretaries, members of the IHQ staff, Archons, and other professionals in various fields—more than 600 Phi Gams met at the St. Louis Union Station Hotel for a weekend of fellowship and learning. On Friday, I attended three information sessions on the Essential Elements of a Chapter Scholarship Program, Fraternity Awards Best Practices, and the Qualities of a Successful Pig Dinner. These were three among several optional yet helpful sessions that were offered that afternoon.

Friday night I had the pleasure of participating in a ceremony that will stand out as one of my fondest memories of Phi Gamma Delta. Our Field Secretary, Josh Wiseman, reached out to me in December and asked if I would be willing to participate in a Model Initiation that would take place during Academy weekend. Although it sounded daunting, I could not help but accept his offer. After a few hours of rehearsal on Thursday and Friday, I was a part of a Ritual Team, composed of officers from Iowa State, Ball State, Ohio State, and William Jewell. Together we performed a full Initiation, granted with fake Initiates, in the presence of about 400 brothers. Acting as Historian for the ceremony, and the preparation it required, sparked some new-found excitement for returning to Charlottesville this semester and sharing with our brothers some of the things I learned.

The next day involved Officer Training, so Andrew, Neil, and I split up to spend time with other brothers in our respective positions. My track involved more fun—and what some would call “nerdy”—Historian information and advice which I am confident will help me perform my duties better in the next year than I would have had I gone without it. Much of our time was spent with the Fraternity Ritualist and the Curator of Archives, both of whom are obviously very knowledgeable in Phi Gamma Delta's past as well as



her secrets. After we regrouped, our time in St. Louis could not have been complete without a visit to former President **Rick Forshaw ('12)**, who is back in his hometown preparing to take over the family business.

As you can tell, I found our experience at Academy very rewarding. The three of us sincerely appreciated the opportunity to make the trip there and to carry the valuable name of Omicron with us. The chance to see the bigger picture—to meet the men who have consistently served as our executive leaders for many years, to share stories with brothers from chapters as far as Southern California and Canada, and to participate in a Pig Dinner with hundreds of brothers—is one I wish every brother could have and an honor which I will not take lightly.

PERGE!

## FRIENDSHIP, THE SWEETEST INFLUENCE EKKLESIA IN NEW ORLEANS

Three undergraduate brothers – **Matt Boegner ('14)**, **Collin Rhea ('13)**, and **Andrew Sconzo ('14)** – travelled to Ekklesia last August for the biennial gathering of FIJI chapters from across the country. To their enjoyment, it was hosted in New Orleans, from which Andrew Sconzo had transferred (Tulane University) and hometown of recent graduate and Tulane Law student **Graham Williams ('12)**.

The meeting allowed the undergraduates to take part in important governance functions of the fraternity and workshops on fraternity leadership. In their free time, the guys made sure to experience the sights and sounds (and smells) of Bourbon Street; fully investigate if French Quarter bars stay open all night (they do); determine if street bands really do play every day (they do, and at 9am the next morning, right outside the hotel too); figure out if that pretty lady

was actually the Miss Louisiana (we think so); trade stories with the brothers from other chapters at brunch the next day (and were there stories); and find out which restaurants had amazing food (all of them).

The three u-grads are grateful for the private tour guide provided by the venerable Graham Williams, who often declared “I was born on Bourbon Street” and no doubt saved them from disaster.

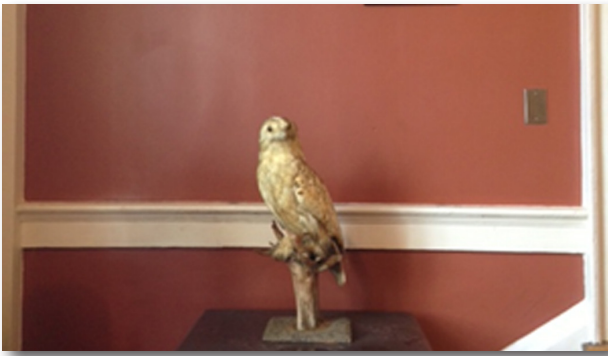
In retrospect, Ekklesia impressed both unforgettable memories and a newfound reverence for the fraternal connections bonding us all together. The sight of pure joy on the faces of a new colony being initiated left an indelible impression and made us proud to call ourselves Phi Gams. We hope the next Ekklesia can be as rewarding to the brothers in attendance.

## NOISE ORDINANCE UPDATE

Clark O'Bannon ('13)

As many of you may not be aware, the local neighborhoods surrounding the University, particularly in areas where Greek houses are located, made a push over the summer to increase regulation and penalties for noise violations. If passed, the new law would make violations punishable by severe fines and potential jail time. The vote for any new law was pushed back until December, and the Greek community, particularly the IFC, was under pressure to make some changes. While our involvement and the impact on our house has

been limited due to the distance between our location and that of local Charlottesville residents, noise regulation by local police during the day and night picked up significantly throughout the semester. We have had to become more conscious about the events that we throw and the timing of them to ensure that we do not draw unnecessary attention to ourselves. As of now, any vote that may or may not take place has once again been postponed to the end of the spring semester.



## GAMMA - NEW ADDITION TO THE HOUSE

Due to the generosity of a current University Employee, Chris Gist, whose recently-passed father was a Phi Gam at the University of Missouri, we are now in the possession of a real, taxidermied snowy white owl. One's man's trash is another's treasure and the brotherhood was very excited to receive such a unique gift. Come by the Hook and take a look for yourself sometime. The new Gamma will spend the majority of its time safely in "The Nest" (the current name for Room #1), but will be displayed downstairs during select events.

## STATE OF THE (FRATERNAL) UNION

Collin Rhea ('13)

Although the Interfraternity Council has seen its fair share of tumult in the past semester, UVa's fraternities are well poised to take advantage of another promising spring semester, none more so than the Omicron Chapter. After an extremely successful Run Across Virginia and the IFC's highest GPA average (3.47) this fall, we expect to continue swelling our chapter with another great class of Fiji gentlemen through recruitment (Jan 17-Feb 2) and look forward to our many events including Islander, Parents Weekend and Foxfields.

In general IFC news, Beta has returned to its house aside Beta Bridge after major renovations and DU has relocated to a newly built house on its original Madison lot. Theta Chi completed massive renovations on its house this December by adding a new deck and more rooms to their house. In addition, 3 new fraternities will join the IFC as probationary chapters for the next 6 months after taking part in this spring's formal rush: Alpha Delta Phi, Alpha Epsilon Pi and TKE. For those that are unaware, SPE and ZTE are still on probation but retain their houses

and are actively preparing to return to the Greek system as soon as they can.

In closing I would like to commend the brotherhood, past and present, for its effort in the development of this chapter into one of the preeminent houses on grounds. In the words of the outgoing IFC president Andrew Colberg, "[the chapter] lives out the ideals of brotherhood that the Greek system seeks to embody and are model gentlemen, I wish the Greek system had more men like them."

## FOXFIELD 2013

Matt Boegner ('14) | Graduate Relations Chair



We are pleased to announce a graduate reception on the evening of April 26th, which promises to be a great way to catch up and prepare for Foxfield the next day. A portion of rooms at the Residence Inn Charlottesville (1111 Millmont Street, Charlottesville, VA 22903) have been reserved for the weekend and are available for graduate attendees. The hotel is located right behind the Barracks Road Shopping Center. Each suite includes 1 queen bed and 1 sleeper sofa, so you are encouraged to split the room with another Bean. You may reserve your room via the internet or by phone; reference codes for both are below.

### RESIDENCE INN RESERVATION INFORMATION

\$169/night (queen bed & sleeper sofa)

Online reservation code: PGDPGDA

Phone: (434) 923-0300

Group name: Phi Gamma Delta Foxfield Weekend Group

Cut-off date: 3/29/2013

*For additional information, please contact Matt Boegner:  
mrb8nd@virginia.edu | (804) 651-8177*

## GRADUATE DONORS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012 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!*

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Stephen A. Nauss '72

### 1000 +

Christopher K. Henningsen '74  
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Geoffrey J. Deutsch '81  
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James Y. Cho '96  
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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!

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