

# THE OMICRON

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

## GREETINGS FROM THE TEMPLE

by Raj Das ('16) | Chapter President



Brothers,

The Omicron chapter has just completed another successful semester, although this year was busier than most. The kitchen has been renovated, the chefs have been hired, and all the brothers are enjoying the Fiji meal plan. It's been a phenomenal opportunity to have everyone at the house more often, and has contributed significantly to the strength of the brotherhood. I'd like to thank Ray Humiston, Jeremy Hogg, Nick Feakins and the rest of the House Corporation,

and all the graduate brothers that made the renovation possible through donating their time, money, or expertise.

After last year's inability to hold the Run Across Virginia due to the administration's reaction to the *Roll-*

*ing Stone* Article, the chapter really wanted to renew its commitment to this philanthropy. We succeeded, with high participation from the brotherhood, the addition of an auction component to the philanthropy, and well over \$20,000 raised this year to benefit the Jimmy V Foundation. We hope to implement further improvements over the next several years – always pushing for Excellence.

As my term concludes, I'd like to thank the graduate brothers for continuing to be so involved with the house. It was great to see so many of you at the Pig Dinner this year, and I hope to see even more of you in the spring over Foxfield weekend. It's inspiring to see how strong the connections are among the pledge classes after graduation, and how you continue to give back and support the house.

It has been a privilege to serve as President, and I am confident that the house will only get better in the future.

Fraternally,

Raj Das

## SAVE THE DATE - UVA REUNIONS



UVA Reunions celebrates the 5th-60th anniversaries of the undergraduate classes of the University of Virginia.

The 35th-60th classes will celebrate June 2-5, 2016 and the 5th-30th classes will celebrate June 9-12, 2016.

More details about a reception at the FIJI house will come leading up to the date

Additionally, there will be seminars, tours and much more.

# LETTER FROM THE FRATERNITY ALUMNI COUNCIL

We, the members of the Fraternity Alumni Council (FAC), are writing to you, a University of Virginia fraternity alumnus, about the events surrounding the Rolling Stone article published in late 2014 that was fully discredited and now proven to be completely fabricated. This article thrust the University fraternity system into turmoil, and we have the opportunity to briefly reflect on the ramifications of this event, and more importantly, to focus on the future of the Greek system at UVA.

During that tumultuous two week period last fall, the University was in the middle of a firestorm of events that seemed completely unfathomable. Our 165 year old Greek system, and our University, was maligned and attacked from all sides. We were vilified in the national press, subjected to verbal and physical attacks from reactionary protesters, and smeared by members of our own University community, long before the facts came out. It should be noted that our young fraternity men acted with class and dignity at every opportunity. Our Greek system's integrity was maintained, and our brothers fully embraced the challenges presented, making our fraternity system a stronger and safer place for all.

As fraternity alumni, we may question the motives and actions of the University administration during this crisis, as well as the reactions from members of our own faculty. However, we all should recognize that events unfolded in a spiraling manner, the veracity of the story itself had not been refuted, and it was virtually impossible for everyone to keep up with the unfolding events and keep everyone informed. We stayed on top of the dialogue between the University and our fraternity men, providing counseling and advice as best we could in light of the unprecedented circumstances. We have concluded that the IFC made changes that were appropriate to strengthen and preserve our Greek system. The administration did their best to make sure that the student's interests were protected in the short and long term. Associate Vice President and University Dean of Students Allen Groves, who is the former International President of Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity, was in constant communication with Phi Psi and the IFC, as he tried to mitigate the fallout and keep our students from harm. Certainly 'hindsight is 20/20' and all parties agree that some of the decisions made at the time could have been handled differently. However, the end result is that communication between the administration, students and alumni is stronger as a result.

Our fraternity men continue to excel. In the classroom, fraternity men posted a higher average GPA than the all-male average at the University. Funds raised by fraternities that went to charity totaled \$127,000 in the last 12 months, and IFC members completed over 18,000 community service hours this past year. Rush numbers in 2015 were the highest ever with over 1000 diverse, young men looking to join a fraternity. The IFC continues to field inquiries from new fraternal organizations that view UVA as a desirable place to start a new chapter. There is no doubt our men are leaders at all levels of the University, including a fraternity man from Beta Theta Pi who was just named the only Rhodes Scholar from the University this academic year.

As your alumni representatives, we firmly believe that we need to work together, not only to help ensure the strength of our own chapters, but of the fraternity system as a whole. We cannot dwell on the mistakes of the past, but we must focus on the enhancement and preservation of UVA's outstanding fraternity system. We need to support our young men so that they can have the positive experiences we enjoyed during our time at the University. We need to support the University and its Jeffersonian system of student self-governance that allows our fraternities to thrive in a changing environment. Our FAC is in constant contact with the IFC Governing Board, the Alumni Association, and has established a more direct line of communication with the President's office. We invite you to consider joining our Board so we can have broad representation of all fraternities, but also reach out to your own chapter, as alumni support has proven to foster a stronger presence at the University. Our overall support and continuing involvement with the University will allow us to positively impact future challenges that we will face. Our Greek system has remained consistent and relevant over the years as our members have evolved and grown. Take this opportunity to join us in supporting the Greek system and the University that we all love. Support our fraternity men and help us support and showcase the character and resolve our young men possess.

## SPRING 2016 INITIATES

Brothers,

The temple is excited to share with you the outcome of a successful recruitment period for the Omicron Chapter. After over 700 attendees during Open House, 23 bids were extended with 21 accepted for a 91% acceptance rate.

The incoming class is one of the most involved and impressive classes in recent history. Overall GPA for that class was an astounding 3.48. The class includes Jefferson Scholars, former UVa athletes, Hullabahoos, and more. Coming from all corners of the United States and even the World, this class is sure to bring many different experiences to the Brotherhood and we are excited for them to undergo the constructive pledge process.

Daniel Long of Singapore (Legacy- Daniel's older brothers, Stephen and Spencer, are current undergraduate brothers of the Omicron Chapter)

Brian Andris of Keswick, Virginia (Legacy- Brian's older brother, Robert, is a current undergraduate brother of the Omicron Chapter)

Sanjay Das of Williamsburg, Virginia (Legacy- Sanjay's older brother, Raj, is a current undergraduate brother of the Omicron Chapter)

Parker Moore of Richmond, Virginia (Legacy- Parker's older brother, John, is a current undergraduate brother of the Omicron Chapter)

Jonathan "Jono" Hahn of Chicago, Illinois (Recommendation from Omicron Brother Bruce Bishop '63)

Jate Bernard of Lexington, Kentucky

Victor Boardman of South Burlington, Vermont

Tate DeVito of Charlottesville, Virginia

Taylor Fielman of Vienna, Virginia

Karl "Spencer" Godine of Charlottesville, Virginia

Robert Gooch, IV of Memphis, Tennessee

Jake Henson of Marietta, Georgia

Conner Houlbrooke of Harrisonburg, Virginia

Jack Marsh of Hopedale, Massachusetts

Zach Kent of Palmyra, VA

Robert Morelli of Park City, Utah

Patrick O'Brien of Concord, Massachusetts

Charles Paul of Cincinnati, Ohio

Eric Seal of Powhatan, Virginia

Derek Smith of Springfield, Virginia

Alexander "Sherman" Tabor of Memphis, Tennessee



Shep Walker '18 (Rec Sec), Will Rinaldi '17 (Treasurer), and Nate Silvestri '17 (President) joined Steve Driskill, '06 (Purple Legionnaire) for Fiji Academy in St. Louis this year.

*Phi Gamma Delta  
not for college days  
alone!*

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!



# NEW KITCHEN RENOVATION



*Parents' Weekend was a huge success this Fall thanks to the newly renovated kitchen and dining room*

# LETTER FROM THE INCOMING PRESIDENT

Brothers,

It is my honor to write to you all as the new President of Omicron. The Exec Cabinet and the rest of the brotherhood is excited to announce that we will be pledging 21 new guys this spring. They represent a large array of states, nationalities, interests and backgrounds. Rush was an absolute success this year and we could not be more proud of the guys that we have brought into the house, and they have a 3.5 GPA to boot!

We have a very busy agenda for the upcoming year in terms of goals for the house. We have already announced a series of service events with the Charlottesville Soup Kitchen. We are also looking to partner with the National Panhellenic Council to have an inter-fraternity

organized service events. Most importantly, we look to partner with Delta Gamma to have a philanthropy event that will build to our total funds raised for Run Across Virginia (in hopes to top Tech this year).

The brotherhood is also incredibly proud of Brother Raj Das (former president) on his acceptance of a room on the lawn! While he has not yet announced the room number, we can only hope he picks Room 28.

We look forward to a busy but exciting semester here at the Temple and hope to see you all at Foxfield.

Nate Silvestri  
Chapter President



Graduates,

William B. McConnell '04 painted this mural while living in the Temple. I use it now to remind you that there are opportunities to get involved, and we need your help.

In particular, we are looking for graduates who might be interested in helping with Pig Dinner or the Graduate Newsletter.

The Graduate Newsletter has always been the most successful when we include news and updates from our graduates. We need your help in gathering those updates and bringing new life to our publication. Whether you have an interest in design, or just think you can help get a few graduate blurbs, we would appreciate your help. Alumni Hall handles much of the heavy lifting, but we could really use some help on keeping the information interesting and relevant for our graduates.

Likewise, we've held Pig Dinner on Homecomings Weekend for the past 10+ years, and we are interested in exploring options for increasing Graduate attendance. Whether that means changing the date, the venue, or adding additional activities to the weekend, we want someone to help explore our options.

If you'd be willing to help, please contact me,

Nick Feakins '05  
(804) 869-2758  
invausa@yahoo.com



# GRADUATE ANNUAL GIVING

Brothers,

In 2015, over 98 Graduates supported our efforts to bring a chef back to the temple. That is absolutely fantastic and I personally want to thank each and every one of you for making this happen.

However, that is only about 12% of our graduate population and I think we can do much better. 20% is closer to our normal giving participation, and I don't think we would be Omicrons if we didn't push for 28% or better each year.

This is a pretty aggressive increase, but a number we have hit in the past, and a number that I think is achievable considering the widespread support for our kitchen renovation.

I hope you will join me in showing your support of Omicron by considering a gift in 2016. All those Graduates who supported our efforts in 2015 are listed below and it is worth noting that a large majority continue to give year after year – a true testament to our mantra that *Phi Gamma Delta is not for College Days Alone*.

PERGE

Nick Feakins '05

President | *Omicron Chapter House Society*

## GRADUATE DONORS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2015

### 1000 +

Raymond E. Humiston III '74

Albert Henry Huntington, IV '00

### 500 +

Alfred Colquitt Shackelford Jr. '51

Edward T. Bedford '64

Jack William Burkart '68

Edwin L. Underwood '69

& Rebecca W. Underwood

James Schell Ryan '76

James D. Sprinkle Jr. M.D. '86

Justin J. Bonner '04

### 250 +

John Awald Koenig '53

H. J. Macdonald Radcliffe USMC '60

John Barry Purcell Jr. '64

John Tompkins Mickle '64

William R. Easton '65

James M. McDiarmid Ph.D. '66

John R. English '70

James D. Wilson '74

William S. Armistead '75

Duff Alan Scudder '78

Matthew Keith Swingle '79

Eric R. L. Sandlund '80

Kevin L. Beicke '01

Kyle Sturgeon '04

Steven Driskill '06

Andrew E. Cooper '09

Connor W. Davis '15

Troy B. Kirwin '16

### 128 +

David M. Wakelee '51

Charles Breckenridge Arrington Jr. '55

James G. Hunter Jr. M.D. '55

James F. McCabe Jr. '55

Benjamin Michaelson Jr. '57

Robert Michael Hoover '58

Gordon L. Gentry Jr. '59

Michael A. Dougherty '61

Guy T. Tripp III '62

David Livingston '65

John M. Stewart '65

George H. Gromel, Jr. '68

Herbert P. '68

Carl Helmetag III '70

Benjamin B. LeCompte III, M.D. '71

Jon C. Butler '72

Robert B. Goss '73

Christopher King Henningsen '74

Jeffrey L. Brown '76

Robert Keith Krout '80

Ian Scott Lawton '80

David P. Morris '80

David Mills O'Donnell '80

Christopher Charles Valtin '80

Michael Hughes Dillon '84

Frank Frederick Petz '84

Steven Gary Vittorio '84

Daniel B. Mason '85

Matthew Lawrence Iwicki Esq. '87

Barry Wayne Bruckman '88

Greg Edward Scharer '91

Michael Louis Woosley Jr. '91

Andrew John Fuentes '93

Chun Mo Kim '93

Daniel John Brosnihan '97

Taylor Meredith Grout '98

David S. Kennedy '99

Robert J. Subasavage '02

Jared Cooper '03

Jeremy D. Hogg '03

Jarrett D. Spencer '03

Adam Garrett Swann '03

Greg A. Dolinsky '04

William B. McConnell '04

Christopher W. Anderson '05

Nicholas P. Feakins '05

David Thomas Walrath '05

Dan Laufer '06

Matthew Allman '08

Thomas R. Hayne '09

Kevin Simmons Dowlen '10

Spencer Adrian Sloan Jr. '10

Joseph Tad Vergara '10

### 28 +

Kenneth Beach Gore '53

Bruce A. Talmadge, M.D. '53

William Joseph Kenney '87

Jacques J. Farhi '11

Stuart C. Keech '11

Timothy P. Lancaster '14

Benjamin R. Campbell '15

James F. Hardardt '15

Colin A. Kent '15

Michael I. Baruch '15

John K. Ellis '16

Stephen W. Long '16

Brian P. O'Rourke '16

Austin G. Diduch '16

Patrick J. Callaghan '16

John W. Moore '16

Ford M. Whitticar '16

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

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!