

THE OMICRON

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

GREETINGS FROM THE TEMPLE

by Andrew Leach ('14) | Chapter President



As always, the Brothers returned to the Temple this past January with the intention of recruiting an ever stronger pledge class. A powerful and coordinated informal fall rush combined with a rested and motivated brotherhood translated into a successful spring rush. In the end, nineteen joined each other on the steps of the Rotunda on a snowy February afternoon to start their pledging.

After a successful pledge semester, the same nineteen found themselves initiated Brothers of Phi Gamma Delta. We couldn't be happier with the new pledge class – both as individuals and as a group - and are eager to see the positive effects they will assuredly have on the house.

Rush has and will continue to be one of Omicron's strengths. The two and a half weeks of events are planned well in advance and incorporate lessons learned from previous years. Unfortunately, this year involved an incident where a rushee who had been at our house previously in the afternoon ended up in the hospital due to alcohol later that night. The student recovered completely and working with BCA we have taken steps to prevent any incident such as this from happening again. After addressing the situation with IHQ though, our Alcohol Free Housing Exemption was denied for both the remainder of the semester and the next academic year. Although we are all incredibly disheartened by this news, we agreed we would not let this define our semester.

Only with the stark outcome of this event, were the true colors of the brotherhood shown. We knew some changes had to be made and after agreeing on new expectations for the chapter, we pressed on like never

SEMESTER HIGHLIGHTS

- OUTSTANDING SCHOLARSHIP AWARD
- OUTSTANDING PHILANTHROPY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
- INTRAMURAL HIGHPOINT CHAMPIONS

before. Classic and beloved events such as our Beach Formal didn't skip a beat, taking us down to the Outer Banks for a weekend of merriment and much needed relaxation while events that were typically held at the house required a little more creativity. Our Graduate Reception was held at Baja Bean and had a fantastic turnout the night before the Foxfield Races while our social events were taken offsite and allowed the brotherhood to experience a different side of Charlottesville on the downtown mall. With the next semester approaching quickly, we've already started planning for different social outlets to keep the brotherhood active and lively.

Social news aside, our continued strength in all facets of University life was again recognized this semester as we won both the Outstanding Scholarship and Outstanding Philanthropy Achievement at our IFC Awards Ceremony. The Scholarship Achievement was won by having the highest average GPA (3.46) of all 29 fraternities on Grounds, while the Philanthropy Achievement recognized our Run Across Virginia that raised over \$50,000 for the Jimmy V. Foundation for Cancer Research last semester. The brothers of Fiji are incredibly grateful for those who donated and made this event such a huge success. Lastly, we are thrilled to announce that we were able to bring home the Intramural Highpoints Trophy this year. Since our last victory in the 2007-08 school year, we have been fighting tooth and nail to bring this award back to Fiji, and are incredibly proud to have done so this year.

Looking forward to next semester, I want to go ahead and inform you of the dates for our annual Pig Dinner. The event will be held on Homecomings weekend, specifically that Friday, October 25th. As the date approaches we'll have more details, but we urge Phi Gams of all years to return to The Hook and join us in one of our most anticipated weekends. The stories and advice you share during these times are absolutely invaluable and help keep our history alive while strengthening our brotherly bonds. We hope to see everyone there!

SAVE THE DATE



vs.



ANNUAL PIG DINNER
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25TH

HOMECOMING WEEKEND
UVA vs GA TECH
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26TH

BUY YOUR TICKETS &
MAKE HOTEL RESERVATIONS NOW!

UVA END OF RUSH LETTER FROM DEAN GROVES

April 4, 2013

Gentlemen:

Earlier this evening, I met with all IFC member fraternity chapter presidents to request that the fraternities initiate their new members no later than 6:00 pm on April 6, 2013. In essence, I have called upon the undergraduate leadership to end all pledging or new member related activities by this Saturday. Following initiation, it is my expectation that these newly initiated brothers will be treated on par with other initiated members and that no further "pledging" requirements will be imposed upon them.

I am contacting you tonight to share the news of this request; and, more importantly, to ask for your partnership as we look to address what we believe in good faith to be a systemic problem of hazing in the IFC community at Virginia.

I did not arrive at this decision easily nor is it a decision that I take lightly. Having conferred with University of Virginia President Teresa A. Sullivan, Vice President and Chief Student Affairs Officer Patricia Lampkin, and my team in Fraternity & Sorority Life, I believe this action is necessary and warranted.

At the start of the spring 2013 semester, my staff addressed the IFC leadership regarding what we saw as a pattern of dangerous drinking behavior related to fraternity recruitment events. At that time, we urged the leadership to engage University administrators, national office staff and other resources in addressing issues of alcohol abuse and hazing and to move forward with recruitment and pledging with the safety of prospective and new members squarely in mind.

Near the conclusion of IFC recruitment, President Sullivan and I personally addressed all IFC chapter presidents to articulate the University's no-tolerance position on hazing. More recently, I sent a detailed notice to IFC leaders requesting that member fraternities discontinue practices that threaten the safety of our students. Throughout, our staff has indicated a willingness to engage and invest in proactive discussions with fraternity leaders so that they may develop plans to abolish harmful activities and to replace them with positive practices that are in line with University values and your own fraternal policies and ideals.

Despite these efforts and outreach, the University, in recent weeks, has received several colorable reports of hazing and misconduct in the fraternal community at Virginia. At present, one fraternity is currently being investigated; and, in the coming days, my team will initiate additional investigations in response to reports that have been presented to my office. These reports have renewed our concerns regarding the excessive consumption of alcohol, line-ups, and other behavior which threatens the health, safety, and well-being of University students.

As the University Dean of Students, the current Chairman of the North-American Interfraternity Conference, an alumnus of the University, and a former staff member and International President for my own fraternity, I have consistently championed the benefits and values of the fraternal experience. At the same time, I have been quite firm in stating that a negative fraternity experience - one that embraces a culture of hazing or fails to provide appropriate oversight of risky alcohol consumption - has no place at the University of Virginia and stands in conflict with the organizational missions of our fraternities and the University's values.

April 6th will mark the conclusion of the 9th week of the new member/pledging period - a sufficient span of time that should have permitted new members the opportunity to learn the history, traditions, and values of their respective fraternities. Given the specificity of the reports of concern we have received to-date and our belief that very little of productive value would be accomplished by continuing pledging in the remaining weeks between now and final exams, I believe it is necessary to call on our fraternity leadership to initiate their new members now, to ensure both the safety of our students and the sustainability of the fraternity community.

Moving forward, the University remains committed to partnering with the undergraduate leadership, inter/national headquarters, and alumni to foster a thriving and beneficial fraternal experience at Virginia. While we remain steadfast in our commitment to advancing the positive aspects of fraternity, we cannot and will not tolerate hazing or high risk alcohol consumption at the University of Virginia.

Prior to the next formal recruitment period in January 2014, the University will initiate a series of proactive educational and prevention efforts designed to engage the fraternity community in an honest and candid conversation around hazing, how to challenge dangerous traditions, and how to implement practices that will ensure that our fraternities continue to remain relevant and value-added components of the University student experience. We will look to our alumni and inter/national organizations to be key partners in this dialogue, even as we also place a significant responsibility for crafting a positive way forward on the shoulders of our students consistent with U.Va.'s model of student self-governance. We need everyone at the table as we chart a path for moving forward.

Interfraternally,



Allen W. Groves
University Dean of Students

RESPONSE TO UVA

Tommy Hayne | Purple Legionnaire

The 2012-2013 academic school year was a very eventful time for the UVA Greek Community. In April 2013, the Administration ordered all IFC fraternities to end their new-member pledge periods and to initiate all pledges within 48 hours, thus ending the pledge process a full month early. This move was in response to serious reports of hazing at several houses around Grounds and to prevent any “hell week” activities that typically occur at many fraternities. Omicron is not among the houses being investigated for hazing. The International Fraternity of Phi Gamma Delta and the Omicron Chapter have a strong no-hazing policy, and we have consistently been focused on building better brothers and not better pledges.

There has been some confusion and discontent in regard to the Administration applying its decision to all fraternities on Grounds since many houses, like Omicron, did nothing wrong. However, the Administration believes that the issues of hazing, misconduct, and the misuse of alcohol are a systematic problem in the IFC community. Therefore, the Administration determined the only way ensure students’ safety was to act in a uniform fashion, and we strongly support the Administration’s efforts to protect student safety.

A brief overview of some of the events of the past school year may also help put the Administration’s decision in better context. Beginning in August 2012, the Venable Neighborhood Committee, a small yet vocal citizen action group, began to petition the Charlottesville City Council to impose stiffer penalties for fraternity houses that violated the city’s noise and trash ordinances. Specifically, the Venable Neighborhood Committee advocated imposing a \$1,000 penalty and up to six months in jail for first time offenders, and a \$2,500 penalty and up to one year in jail for repeat offenders. As the result of student outreach, the City Council wisely tabled these motions. However, the city police began to crack down on fraternity parties violating existing noise ordinances (which come with a more modest \$250 fine), even for houses outside the Venable neighborhood and regardless of whether the house received an actual complaint from a neighbor.

Additionally, the Charlottesville area has recently been categorized as a “hotspot” by the Virginia Department of Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC), which has prompted a noticeable increase in ABC officers and police at bars and commercial sources of alcohol. These efforts, dubbed “Operation Charlottesville,” have resulted in a crackdown on underage and excessive drinking as well as the manufacturing of fake IDs. Moreover, there was a significant increase in the number of alcohol-related hospitalizations during sorority and

fraternity rush at the beginning of the spring semester.

In this context, the IFC and ISC have begun to more closely scrutinize fraternities and sororities who violate their Fraternal Organization Agreements (FOA) with the school. Unfortunately, there was an incident involving Omicron during spring recruitment. A potential rushee who had attended one of Omicron’s first invites during the day was hospitalized due to alcohol that evening. The individual is in good health, but the Dean of Fraternity and Sorority Life immediately filed charges with IFC Judiciary Committee. The Omicron Chapter House Society (House Corp) and the Board of Chapter Advisors (BCA) also immediately met with Exec to determine the best course of action. After assessing the situation, there was a unanimous decision to proactively revoke Omicron’s Alcohol Free Housing Exemption. The Chapter also revised the remainder of the rush schedule to remove any potential risks and suspended the individual brothers who were with the rushee that evening.

An IFCJC trial was held in February and Omicron was officially sanctioned for the semester, and Omicron has successfully complied with these sanctions. In addition, there was also a hearing with IHQ’s Board of Conduct. The Board reaffirmed House Corp’s decision to revoke the AFH Exemption and the chapter is not allowed to reapply for the AFH Exemption until next year for the 2014-2015 school year.

The Chapter understands the seriousness of the situation and we are all confident that this setback will not have a negative impact on the House in the long-term. Omicron still had a successful rush and initiated 19 new brothers this past April. Omicron also earned the Outstanding Scholarship Award for 2012 and recently won the Intramural Highpoint Championship.. In addition, the Chapter also took home two FSL Greek Awards at the end of the semester: the Outstanding Scholastic Achievement Award and the Outstanding Fraternity Philanthropic Program for the Run Across Virginia. Rest assured, Brothers continue to be involved, and hold leadership positions, in many organizations and student groups on Grounds, and Omicron is still regarded as one of the strongest chapters on Grounds and in Phi Gamma Delta. We hope to see many of you back in Charlottesville in the Fall for Pig Dinner during Homecomings Weekend.

PERGE
Tommy Hayne
Purple Legionnaire



REUNIONS 2013

On June 8, approximately 20 graduate brothers and their families attended Omicron’s graduate reception as part of this year’s Reunions Weekend, where they enjoyed catching up with old friends over burgers and refreshments. Kudos to the classes of 1993 and 2008 for showing up in the most force.

*Phi Gamma Delta -
not for college days alone!*

GRADUATE NEWS

Dave Mead '05 and his wife bought a new house in November of last year and is becoming an expert at removing stainful iguanas from my yard and pool in Puerto Rico.

Nick Feakins '05 has been helping the Delta Colony at Virginia Commonwealth University as they try to establish the next Phi Gamma Delta chapter in Richmond, Virginia.



Ryan Hickox '06 is working as a Transportation Engineer in Herndon, VA. He was honored to be the best man for Matt Sefcik (ENGR '06) in his June 30 wedding.

Spencer Sloan '10 graduated from Columbia Law School in May and will join Simpson Thacher & Bartlett as an associate in the firm's New York office in September.

Sean Homan '05 just moved back to Virginia after 3 years in New Haven, CT. He's still doing the Coast Guard thing, and will be stationed in Yorktown, Va for the next 4 years. He and his wife are having their first child (Boy) in October.

Stu Keech '11 is still living in Indianapolis, Indiana and working for Rolls-Royce. He's designing jet engines and taking mechanical engineering grad school classes through Purdue. Feel free to reach out if you have any interest in visiting for the Indy 500 this May!

Skylar Haines '12 recently arrived back from a 3-month expedition to Antarctica, where he participated in an international project to drill an ice core from an island on the Ross Ice Shelf. As part of his graduate research, he is involved in the analysis of this ice record through the Climate Change Institute at the University of Maine. He will travel to the Quelccaya Ice Cap in the Peruvian Andes this summer, where he will assist a small team in collecting ice for another study.



Taylor Scholz '12 is working at BIT Systems as a development engineer and planning to enroll at George Mason University in pursuit of an MS in engineering.

SPRING 2013 INITIATES

The Chapter is excited to report on our most recent initiates. They are a diverse group, including members of many club sports teams and scholastic clubs. Many have come to UVA from far away and the average GPA is 3.55.

Eric Gregory Bauer | Buffalo, NY

Branson Nord Berger | Saint James, NY

James Richard Burke III | Chatham, NJ

Tyler Dean Brusie | Woodbridge, VA

Brian Chung | Vienna, Austria

Alexander Paul Crocker | Warrenton, VA

Austin Graham Diduch | Charlottesville, VA (legacy)

John Keefe Ellis III | Pittsburgh, PA

Michael David Ellis | Pasadena, CA

Richard Pearson Gean | Bentonville, AR

Charles Krauss King | Warrenton, VA

Troy Boswell Kirwin | Scarsdale, NY

Stephen Winfield Long | Singapore, SG

John William Moore | Richmond, VA

Brian Patrick O'Rourke | New York, NY

Reade Warner Paterno | Chapel Hill, NC

Christopher Anthony Vignali | McLean, VA

Andrew John Waldron | Charlottesville, VA

Ford Marshall Whitticar | Haymarket, VA

OMICRON CLASS OF 2013 GRADUATION PLANS

Clark O'Bannon will be moving to Houston, TX in June. He will start work as an analyst at Resource Environmental Solutions.

Billy Kirk will be moving to Washington, DC, and will start work as a Business Technology Analyst at Deloitte in July. He will be living with **Evan Rust ('11)**.

Ed Sampognaro will be moving to Atlanta, GA in late May. He will start work as a Private Equity analyst for Roark Capital Group and will be living with pledge brother **Collin Rhea**.

Doug Milvaney will be moving to Cambridge, MA in August to work as a Program Manager at Microsoft.

Collin Rhea will be moving to Atlanta, GA in June and will be working as an investment banking analyst at SunTrust Robinson Humphrey.

Julian Wills will be moving to New York City in August. He will spend the next five years at NYU pursuing a Ph.D. in Social Psychology.

Michael Stolz will be moving to Norfolk, VA to attend Eastern Virginia Medical School's Medical Master's Program.

Thomas Coleman will be moving to London, England in September to receive his master's degree in International Development from the

London School of Economics.

Daniel Flanary will be moving to New York City where he will be an investment banking analyst at Rothschild.

Sanford Williams will be taking his MCAT shortly after graduation and submitting medical school applications for Fall 2014.

Collins MacDonald will remain in Charlottesville, VA to pursue a Masters of Science in Systems and Information Engineering at the University of Virginia.

Logan Spangler will be moving to San Francisco, CA in June to begin his career with Oracle as a Business Development Consultant.

Michael Rinaldi will be moving to Durham, North Carolina to attend Duke University and pursue a Masters degree from the Nicholas School of the Environment.

Rob Liszkiewicz will be moving to Richmond, Virginia for training as an engineering salesman at Tencarva Machinery Company.

Charlie Miller is pursuing his entrepreneurial ideas in New York. He plans to start in the music industry with an idea that sparked from his time in the Hullabahoos.



Omicron Class of 2013

UPDATE ON RENOVATIONS



The Fiji house at Miami University in Ohio recently had a major fire (see picture). Thankfully, it appears that no one was hurt. It did, however, bring back memories of the fatal fire at UNC in 1996 in which 5 brothers were killed and another 3 injured. That fire sparked a number of changes in the way fraternities handle fire safety.

Each fall, the City of Charlottesville completes a Fire Safety Inspection and a Property Inspection of 128 Madison Lane. The Fire Safety Inspection obviously focuses on items related to the safety of our Brothers and guests. We are lucky in that our house is protected by smoke alarms and a fire sprinkler system connected directly to the local fire department. We also conduct annual fire evacuation drills and adhere to strict no-smoking and no-flammable materials (i.e., bamboo) policies to prevent any accidents. The safety of our Brothers and guests is our first priority, and we take no chances.

The City of Charlottesville also completes a Property Inspection that focuses not only on safety issues like worn stairs or railings in disrepair but also on cosmetic issues like peeling paint or broken windows. For the past few years we have been getting cited for peeling paint on some of our windows and wood trim. This year they also cited us for some of

our wood floors needing repair. Thanks to graduate donations, we are finally able to address these maintenance items this summer.

We will be scraping, repairing, priming, and repainting all our wood surfaces – including the front columns. We will be starting a program to refinish all our first floor wood floors. And we will be repointing significant areas of the brick work, where the mortar has begun to decay and allow moisture into the house.

This is just the work we hope to accomplish this summer.

In the fall, we will be turning our attention to the basement, and especially the bathroom down there. It needs a new sink, a new stall door, and some wall repair due to old water damage. Other areas of the basement also need repair from previous water damage and just heavy use.

We will also need to replace the kitchen stove, which finally broke down the last week of school. And there are always a couple of items here and there that need fixing at the start of the semester. If you are planning to visit Charlottesville for Reunions, Pig Dinner, or a fall football game, I hope you will make a point of stopping by and checking out our progress... I think you will be proud.



“ [U.Va. is the only university] in America that has been designated a UNESCO World Heritage site. I believe that means if you try to carve your name into a desk, the UN will send in ground troops. ”

Stephen Colbert, during his valedictory address to the Class of 2013

GRADUATE ANNUAL GIVING

Brothers,

It took 11 years, but the Omicron Chapter reached a significant milestone this past year. In addition to meeting all our day-to-day financial obligations (mortgage, utilities, taxes), making the kinds of repairs necessary in a house of 27 college guys (leaky toilets, broken windows), and taking care of necessary maintenance (painting, floor refinishing)... we are finally able to pay down our mortgage AND put away reserve funds for major renovations (such as roof replacement and basement renovations).

The truth is, Omicron has been doing very well the past few years. Rush continues to be strong year after year and graduate support has been growing too. As a result, we have been able to address many of the critical house projects that were neglected in the past, while at the same time, putting us on sound financial footing with our mortgage and reserve funds.

This summer, we plan to repair the front columns, repaint the exterior wood trim, and repoint areas of our masonry that are starting to decay and cause water damage. These projects, while not flashy and exciting, go to the heart of our fraternity house and its foundation. And they are only possible because of the growing support of our graduate base. While many UVA fraternities rely on 1-5 wealthy graduates to fund emergency repairs, we are proud to say that over 130 graduates gave to Omicron last year. With 800+ Omicron graduates, imagine what we could do if everyone gave \$128, \$250 or more!

If you've already given for 2013, many thanks. Your support makes all these great things possible. If you haven't had a chance yet, please consider joining your Brothers below in showing your support of Omicron and the current undergraduate Brothers by making a pledge today!

PERGE

Nick Feakins '05

President | *Omicron Chapter House Society*

GRADUATE DONORS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013 THROUGH MAY 31

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

5000 +

Stephen A. Nauss '72

1000 +

Jack William Burkart '68

500 +

Jeffrey R. Anderson '69
James D. Sprinkler, MD '86

250 +

A. Colquitt Shackelford, Jr. '51
John T. Mickle '64
David R. Verklin '78
Albert H. Huntington, IV '00*
Kevin L. Beicke '01
Jeremy D. Hogg '03*
Nicholas P. Feakins '05
Andrew E. Cooper '09

128 +

Thomas B. Slade III '53
James G. Hunter, Jr., MD '55
William C. Childress '58
Gordon L. Gentry, Jr. '59
Michael A. Dougherty '61
Edward T. Bedford '64
William R. Easton '65
David Livingston '65
James M. McDiarmid '66
R. Thatcher Dilley, MD '67
Charles K. Fox '66
Herbert P. Soles '68
Edwin L. Underwood '69
Richard D. Holden '80
Frank F. Petz '84
David Carrington Fisher '90
Christopher T. Walters '05*
Mark H. Longenecker III '09

28 +

H. Winston Holt, III '53
John K. Pegues IV '71
Richard C. Powell '72
Matthew J. Allman '08
Harrison S. McGehee '08
John Q. Schisler III '09
Steven P. Rowe '12
Michael A. Kutchever '80
Taylor M. Grout '98
Nicholas J. McGregor '12

** Indicates a Club 128 member (ongoing monthly donor) listed under their annual pledge level*

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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!