

THE OMICRON

CHAPTER OF PHI GAMMA DELTA - UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

WWW.UVAFIJI.ORG

GREETINGS FROM THE TEMPLE

by Michael Baruch ('15) | Chapter President



Graduate Beans of Phi Gam, it's my pleasure to inform you all that we have completed another successful semester down here in Charlottesville. This is despite the tumultuous nature of the greater UVa Greek System this past semester; I'll outline some of the details here. During this semester, the fraternities Sigma Nu and Pi Kappa Alpha were found guilty of hazing allegations having to do with their new member education. Both chapters had their Fraternal Organization Agreements and Charters revoked for at least two years. While some complained that these chapters were treated unfairly by the administration during the investigations, it is my opinion as president that hazing should be zero-tolerance, and has no place in today's Greek System. Despite this setback for UVa Greek Life, Omicron has flourished. We gave out 24 bids with 24 acceptances, initiating 23 of those men. While we were originally concerned that the revocation of our Alcohol Exemption would impede our recruitment, I'm thrilled to say that the brotherhood really stepped up and made it a priority to take a fantastic class, and I think we crushed it. I'm looking forward for those of you who didn't get a chance to meet them at Foxfield to be able to do so at this upcoming Pig Dinner in the fall.

While we welcomed the class of Spring '17 into the fold, we gave

a bittersweet farewell to the graduating elders of 2014. This exceptional class sports not one, but two members of the Z Society, and we have Omicrons going to work in Silicon Valley and Wall Street, and a brother who was accepted into Harvard Business School. They've left big shoes for us to fill and we'll miss them greatly as they join your ranks as Graduate Beans.

As I mentioned, we spent this past semester (as well as the one before it) without our Alcohol Exemption. While initially, some thought that this would splinter brotherhood unity, after having spent a dry semester in the fall the spring went quite well. In fact, this semester's social and brotherhood events fostered inter-pledge class unity such that it's the strongest I've seen during my time in the house.

Fiji Island, which we threw in early April, was a smashing success. Historian, Brother Ruland, deserves particular recognition for locating a site to host the party. After the event, the land owner and her children were so enamored with our Bamboo creations that they asked us if we could leave it intact for them (after we had thoroughly cleaned it of course.)

In summary, the Phi Gams at UVA are doing great and continue to strive for excellence in all areas. The brotherhood is excited for the possibility of being granted back our Alcohol Free Housing Exemption, as well as getting to spend more time with the newly initiated brothers this coming fall. We're also looking forward to Pig Dinner, which has become one of our largest events of the fall semester, and I hope y'all will be able to attend. As always, if you find yourself in Charlottesville stop by the temple, we would love to see you and show you a good time. I hope ya'll are well, and to see you soon.

Perge!

Brother Baruch
President

HAVE YOU LIKED THE OMICRON CHAPTER ON FACEBOOK?

- 848 MAILING ADDRESSES
- 605 EMAIL ADDRESSES
- 162 FACEBOOK LIKES

FACEBOOK.COM/UVAFIJI

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.

HELP US SHRINK THE GAP BETWEEN 874 GRADUATES AND 162 FACEBOOK LIKES TODAY. LIKE US ON FACEBOOK.

facebook

THE PROBLEMS IN OUR FRATERNITY

Many of you might have read, or heard of, Caitlin Flanagan's article in The Atlantic Monthly titled, "The Fraternity Problem". A number of fraternities have issued responses to it and there has been a lot of discussion online and in the Greek community about fraternities' role in higher education. I myself will not give a detailed rebuttal to the article, but instead ask that you read it (it is available online) and consider its implications. It certainly shows how popular opinion is building against fraternities.

While my personal experiences at Omicron cause me to disagree with Miss Flanagan, I do not deny that fraternities have serious problems. The simple truth is that there are fraternity men who have created and continue to propagate stereotypes that are counter to everything a fraternity should stand for. We should be doing more to counteract these stereotypes by holding our fellow brothers to higher standards and remembering our true purpose. We survive as complimentary parts of our University community, so we have to do more to embody our core values and pursue excellence – not only within our chapter, but as members of the Greek community.

A friend of mine recently said, "America doesn't have a "fraternity problem". But what are we going to do about the problems in our fraternity? It will certainly require Persistence.

Nick Feakins '05

President | *Omicron Chapter House Society*



SPRING 2014 INITIATES

Omicron initiated 23 men this spring, hailing from as near as Earlysville and as far as Bangkok. Over 600 students came through our open-house doors and we continue to recruit Gentlemen of Excellence.

Pat Callaghan | *Pittsburgh, PA*

Connor Briggs | *Rumson, NJ*

Taylor Barr | *Marietta, GA*

William Rinaldi | *Cincinnati, OH*

Raj Das | *Williamsburg, VA*

Alexander Dunkenberg | *Roanoke, VA*

James Vahey | *Concord, MA*

Tom Jones | *Crewe, VA*

Brandon Clifford | *Virginia Beach, VA*

Bobby Andris | *Keswick, VA*

David Tondreau | *Vienna, VA*

Hunter Hewlett | *Virginia Beach, VA*

Hayden Goldberg | *Marietta, GA*

Samuel Hughes | *Lexington, KY*

Will Cray | *Mission Hills, KA*

Trey Toms | *Johns Creek, GA*

Greg DeRosa | *Oak Hill, VA*

Peter Thompson | *Newton Square, PA*

Clement Bohr | *Newton, PA*

Tim Casavant | *New Canaan, CT*

Andrew Solomon | *Earlysville, VA*

Nathanial Silvestri | *Mt. Pleasant, SC*

Spencer Long | *Bangkok, Thailand*

GRADUATE VOLUNTEERS

Our Graduate volunteers serve on two distinct boards, the Omicron Chapter House Society (House Corporation) and the Board of Chapter Advisors (BCA). Our House Corporation is focused on the safety of our Brothers and Guests, the continued maintenance of our Chapter House, and the longevity of the Omicron Chapter. The Board of Chapter Advisors is responsible for advising both the chapter leadership and the Brotherhood as a whole, ensuring both the continuity of operations and their continued excellence. Most importantly, the BCA hosts our Executive Officer Orientation in January, where we prepare the incoming officers for their new leadership roles. We are always looking for graduates who would be open to volunteering their expertise or serving on either of these boards.

In particular, we are currently looking for graduates who would be willing to assist with graduate communications (newsletters, email blasts, facebook updates), fundraising (class captains), or house management projects. If you think you might be interested, please contact Nick Feakins '05 at invausa@yahoo.com

Many thanks to all our graduates who dedicate their time and effort:

House Corporation

- President Nick Feakins '05
- Treasurer Chris Anderson '05
- Director Stephen Naus '72
- Director Bill Jeter '78
- Director Bob Krout "BK" '80
- Director Ray Humiston '74
- Director Richard Swift '74
- Director Jeremy Hogg '03
- Director Larry Johnson '81

- Director & Chapter President, Michael Baruch
- Director & Chapter Treasurer, William Emmanuel
- Director & Chapter Representative, Troy Kirwin
- Registered Agent (non-member) Scott Simmons '83

Board of Chapter Advisors

- Purple Legionnaire Tommy Hayne '09
- Robert Carlisle '08
- Steve Driskill '06
- Andy Cooper '09
- Chris Megaw '09
- Kevin Dowlen '10
- Jared Ward '11
- Ross Jacobson '11
- Brian Kinslow '11
- Rick Forshaw '12
- Taylor Scholz '12
- Graham Williams '12

CONTACT US

Chapter President

Michael Baruch,
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443-878-5100

Purple Legionnaire

Tommy Hayne
thayne2287@gmail.com
571.228.0803

House Corp President

Nick Feakins
invausa@yahoo.com
804.357.4725



SUPPORT THE OMICRON CHAPTER

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

Make your 2014 gift today!

Use the enclosed form or donate online at:
www.uvafiji.org

Please join us in supporting
128 Madison Lane!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 4TH YEARS!

Nick Allen | CapTech Ventures

Neil Blanchard | Medical Scribe

Greg Bayliss | JP Morgan Oil and Gas
Investment Group

Matt Boegner | Deloitte Consulting

Anthony Bucci | Deloitte Consulting -
HBS after 2 years

Brian Donahue | Dollar Tree Corporate

Eric Forte | Verizon FNS

Andrew Foster | Raices Fellows Program

Tim Hilliard | Curry School - Masters in
Teaching

Chase Johnson | UVA Hospital Scribe

Anthony Kennedy | Workforce

Josh Kite | Kipps DeSanto

Tim Lancaster | Maryland Medical School

Andrew Leach | Microsoft

Colin Leslie | Bain

Jonny Lodge | Credit Suisse

Scott Mattocks | Lockheed Martin

Sean McAuliffe | Oracle

Fritz Metzinger | Tulane Law School

Thomas Mignone | Microsoft

Brandon Moores | Deloitte Corporate
Finance

Sam Rubin | Deloitte Consulting

John Tubesing | Rothschild

Andrew Sconzo | Workforce

CJ Conlon | Oracle

Nicholas Loftus | Sullivan & Cromwell

Cam Walsh | Deloitte Consulting

Congratulations to our 4th years! We look forward to seeing you all back for Pig Dinner in the fall.



SAVE THE DATE



vs.



ANNUAL PIG DINNER

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24TH

HOMEcoming WEEKEND

UVA vs UNC

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25TH

BUY YOUR TICKETS &

MAKE HOTEL RESERVATIONS NOW!

2014 GREEK AWARDS

Outstanding Philanthropic Program

Phi Gamma Delta
Alpha Phi

Outstanding Service to the Community

Delta Zeta
Lambda Phi Epsilon International Fraternity, Inc.

Outstanding Fraternity Educational Program

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Outstanding Fraternity New Member Education Program

Tau Kappa Epsilon
Kappa Delta

Outstanding Sportsmanship & Intramural Sports

Alpha Delta Pi
Delta Sigma Phi

Outstanding Scholastic Achievement

Beta Theta Pi
Chi Omega

Outstanding Inter-Greek Partnership

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. & Phi Delta Theta "Hoop Dreams"

Most Improved Chapter

Sigma Delta Tau
Pi Kappa Phi

Inter-Fraternity Council Emerging Leader

Michael White (Delta Sigma Phi)



Rick Sledd, Mike Devlin, Preston Lloyd, Justin Bonner, and Kyle Sturgeon from the Class of 2004 reunite on the house front steps

REUNIONS 2014

On June 7, a number of 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.

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!

GRADUATE UPDATES!

LET YOUR PLEDGE BROTHERS KNOW WHAT'S NEW!

KEEP YOUR FELLOW OMICRON ALUMNI UP TO DATE WITH WHAT YOU HAVE BEEN DOING.

SUBMIT AN ALUMNI UPDATE AND MAKE SURE YOUR ADDRESS IS CURRENT AT UVAFIJI.ORG

UVAFIJI.org

Click to return to UVAFIJI.org

LEADERSHIP | FUNDRAISING | TEMPLE | EVENTS | GRADUATES

Please use the form below to submit graduate news and changes to your contact information. Each newsletter has at least one feature graduate article and a page of graduate photos. These 2-3 sentence updates really add a great deal to our newsletters.

Please note, the following fields are required: Full Name, Grad Year, and E-mail.

Full Name: _____
 Grad. Year: _____
 E-mail: _____
 (incl. state): _____

Message: _____

GRADUATE ANNUAL GIVING

Brothers,

As Brother Baruch reported, Omicron continues to excel at the University of Virginia and amongst the 31+ fraternity chapters on grounds. The Chapter consistently leads in athletics, academics, philanthropy, and leadership positions. At a recent meeting of all Greek alumni advisors, Dean Groves repeatedly praised Fiji for its efforts on and around grounds. Despite “perceived challenges” like a dry house this year, we still saw over 600 students visit FIJI during Rush. The Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life reported that approximately 572 bids were extended this year; with an average pledge class of 18. Omicron continues to pledge and initiate only those who exemplify our core values and our dedication to Excellence. We could not be more proud of our 23 spring initiates.

Much of our success is possible thanks to the generous support of our graduates. Your support is more than just financial – it is showing up at Pig Dinner, football tailgates, Foxfield, Reunions - and showing the University community that Phi Gamma Delta is Not for College Days Alone.

As you look at the list of graduates below who have already pledged support this year, I hope you will consider joining them with your own pledge. With 800+ Omicron graduates, imagine what we could do if everyone gave \$128, \$250 or more!

Your support makes all the great things possible. We have put asterisks next to the names of brothers below that have given 3+ years in a row – we appreciate your continued support.

PERGE

Nick Feakins '05

President | *Omicron Chapter House Society*

GRADUATE DONORS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014 THROUGH MAY 31

1,000 +

Stephen A. Nauss '72 *

500 +

Jack William Burkart '68 *
David Livingston '65

250 +

Jack William Burkart '68 *
David Livingston '65
Kevin L. Beicke '01 *
Nicholas P. Feakins '05 *
John T. Mickle '64 *
H. J. Macdonald Radcliffe '60
A. Colquitt Shackelford, Jr. '51 *
R. Michael Sorensen '70 *

128 +

Barry W. Bruckman '88 *
Jamison T. Driver '99 *
William R. Easton '65 *
Gordon L. Gentry, Jr. '59 *
Carl Helmetag III '70 *
Richard D. Holden '80 *
Posey B. Howell, Jr. '58
Ross A. Jacobson '11 *
Ian S. Lawton '80 *
Edgar D. McKean III '70 *
Benjamin Michaelson, Jr. '57 *
John A. Sabanosh '60
Eric S. Stange '80
John M. Stewart '65
Andrew J. Straitman '09
John Paul Subasavage, Jr. '00

Steven G. Vittorio '84 *

David Thomas Walrath '05 *
James D. Wilson '74 *

28 +

Matthew J. Allman '08 *
Scott P. Ankers '09
Kevin Simmons Dowlen '10 *
Kyle S. Fuschetti '06 *
Kenneth B. Gore '53 *
Timothy F. Hilliard '14
H. Winston Holt III '53 *
Timothy P. Lancaster '14
James H. Levasseur '62
Thomas J. Lodge '14
Brandon R. Moores '14
John E. Snyder '62

* represent graduates who have given 3+ years in a row

Douglas Belkin with the Wall Street Journal reports, “A new survey finds college graduates who were members of a fraternity or sorority are generally happier than their peers who didn't pledge. Greeks have higher engagement in their jobs and a better sense of well-being. They are less stressed about money, have more supportive social lives and are physically healthier.” “I am not surprised by those results at all,” said Brandon Ehrhardt, a 2009 graduate of Indiana University, where he was a member of Phi Gamma Delta and is now employed by United Airlines. “It seems to me that 90% of my fraternity brothers are extremely successful and happy with their lives.”

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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!