

THE OMICRON

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



CHAPTER UPDATE AND FAREWELL

Brothers,

I sincerely hope this newsletter finds you all in great health and prepared to withstand the coming dog days of summer! Our chapter withstood the Charlottesville humidity in the final weeks of the semester to see off our beloved graduating class of 2018 to the places that they will go. These Phi Gam Gentlemen were particularly valued in our chapter and their presence has left a lasting mark. The dynamic of the brotherhood will truly never be the same (that is, until their return for Pig Dinner). We congratulate them on their successes and wish them the greatest of good fortune in whatever their future should hold.

The spring semester on Mad Lane remained as fruitful and productive as the years past! Our annual silent online auction to raise money for the Jimmy V Foundation was a remarkable success. In moving the auction to the spring, our efforts to raise awareness and donations were able to involve the entire brotherhood as well as numerous businesses surrounding our dwelling of 128. Including the additional sales made on our Run Across Virginia shirts, Omicron was able to raise an additional \$4,360 for cancer research with the Jimmy V Foundation. We're all proud of the donations we raised and hope to continue these impressive results with spring auctions for years to come.

The service of our chapter has always been surpassing of our peers and continued to do so this semester. Our work with the Children's Miracle Network again this semester was as empowering as ever. Our miracle kid, Tyler, found endless support in our brotherhood during the time he spent between treatments. Our fellow beans of 128 even took a liking to gathering the brotherhood to "initiate" Tyler on his last visit, further emphasizing the support we all had for him in his battle. Alongside the Children's Miracle Network, our chapter participated in a UVA fraternity-wide community service project with Rise Against Hunger. Assembling in the Newcomb Ballroom with over 300 members from varying fraternities, we were able to pack over 50,000 meals for families in Nicaragua and Honduras. With each of the 32 fraternities



Tucker Colerick, John Barron, James Parkerson, and Gabriel Himelfarb

around UVA participating, the IFC has had great success in rallying our Greek system to promote service and our giving back in our community; a goal all of us at 128 will gladly support.

While the spring had much to offer our humble spot on Mad Lane, I look to the Fall to bring our greatest successes. Before my Spring '17 pledge class enters The Temple, we hope to restore further the timeless beauty that 128 presents. Currently gathering the plans and money to undergo a second-floor bathroom renovation, re-sodding of the front lawn, and restoration of the patio's French doors; the Omicron Chapter is set to look as well as it has in years. We hope for all of our brothers to see these projects accomplished amidst Charlottesville's inevitably beautiful fall weather.

From one bean to another, I wish you best in all that you are doing! I sincerely hope your life is filled with the camaraderie you know is eternally dwelling at the Omicron Chapter of 128.

Fraternally,
 Justin Fox
 Omicron Chapter President '20
 Perge!

JOSH HURWITZ '20

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Brothers,

Still suffering from the sadness of our defeat at the hands of UMBC in the tournament, I share Justin's sentiments in hoping that you are doing well in all endeavors and on all fronts. Also echoing Justin, as an undergraduate brotherhood, we truly had a successful semester. Our all Second-Year exec had the chance to settle into our new roles early in the year, which provided for quite the smooth transition, allowing us to help steer the chapter forward in all of our pursuits.

Aside from the work in service we accomplished as detailed by Justin, we managed to plan some really successful social events this semester as well. Besides the usual of Fiji Islander and the works, we were hand-selected by the IFC to host a student-faculty mixer with our brotherhood. We extended the invitation to 15 of our professors, and everyone who came really enjoyed the chance to get to know some of their students outside of the classroom. McIntire School of Commerce professor Gary Ballinger was even kind enough to write about the event in his own words later in the newsletter.

As has become tradition in recent years, in March, we once again headed down to Nags Head, NC for our weekend Beach Formal. While in the OBX, we had a chance to bond as a brotherhood with our respective dates. And for our Newly Initiated Brothers, the weekend provided a nice respite from the pledge semester. With the formal on Friday night and a day at the beach on Saturday, this event continued to be one of our most memorable.

Looking forward to the fall, I hope to have Pig Dinner information coming out soon. We would love to see as many of our graduate brothers and their families back in town as possible. And on the topic of grad events, while the baseball event did not exactly come to fruition this past semester, we are hoping to resume the yearly tradition of Lax and Links (or at least the Lax part) next spring, so look out for more information regarding that as well.

Once again, I hope you and your families are all doing well wherever you are in the world. I look forward to seeing you all as you return to the Temple for future events!

Fraternally,
Josh Hurwitz '20
Corresponding Secretary
Perge!



Kyle Burnett, Sheldon Gray, Tyler Sudbrink,
Luke Shields, and Kurt Diduch



Kurt Diduch, Henry Pollard, Tyler Sudbrink,
Luke Shields, and Sheldon Gray

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

On April 25, I was pleased to attend the early evening faculty reception at the Fiji house for the Faculty-Greek Social. This was a welcome opportunity for me and faculty colleagues to have a chance to share a refreshing beverage (or two) and talk with the brothers in a social setting and it was a definitely welcome respite for faculty from end of the semester activities like exam writing and grading. In talking with brothers at the reception, I had enjoyable conversations with several brothers about academic and summer plans, the annual tradition of removing the bamboo, and how to appreciate and communicate the positive role of the Greek system in the structure of UVA. I appreciated the chance to see the house and talk about out-of-classroom topics and I do hope that this becomes a tradition in the future.

Gary Ballinger, Associate Professor of Commerce

JACK SCHEMAN

NEWLY INITIATED BROTHER

As a newly initiated brother of the Omicron chapter of Phi Gamma Delta, I am truly excited for what the future holds. While sad to see the Spring 2015 pledge class graduate, I enjoyed my semester getting to know them. Fresh of an Intramural softball championship, the future looks bright in the athletic department for the house. In terms of my pledge class, we cannot wait to for the fall to really experience the magic of the Omicron chapter. As a whole, we are thrilled to be initiated and know that we can bring our chapter to the next level. We are looking forward to the spring next year as well, where we will look to find the best prospective members through rush and work to induct them into our brotherhood. All in all, the present at 128 Madison is great and the future is looking up in a big way!

PERGE,

Jack Scheman

SUTTON BLANCHARD

NEWLY INITIATED BROTHER

Coming into UVA this year, I was not sure about joining a fraternity, and, even once I rushed and got a bid, I was not completely sure about joining Fiji. But that changed really quickly. Over the course of the next two months, I met so many people who I have gotten incredibly close with and who are there to help me if I ever needed anything. The guys in my pledge class and those above me have become some of my best friends. Everyone talks about the relationships you make in Fiji and fraternities in general, but the brotherhood here is something special. Other fraternities seem to create divisions between pledge classes from the pledging semester, but not here. From our very first night as NIBs, we felt it. Everyone went and hung out as one group like we had done it for years. It has been an amazing experience being a part of this brotherhood, and I can't wait to see Phi Gam's future and shape it. After whatever reservations I had, I can't imagine being anywhere else.

PERGE,

Sutton Blanchard

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE KARL BELCZYK MEMORIAL BICENTENNIAL SCHOLARS FUND



As some of you have heard, a number of Omicron Graduates have created the first fraternity-sponsored Engineering scholarship in UVA's 200-year history. We honor Karl Belczyk, a Fiji like no other, who died in the service of his country in 1994 in a USN training exercise over the North Atlantic in 1994. Karl was an amazing bean with an academic, athletic, and friendship ethos that will never be forgotten. With an initial raise of just over \$128,000 from 37 Fijis and a 50% match in honor of the University's Bicentennial, we have created a perpetual endowment in his and Phi Gam's name, that is expected in 2023 to award its first gift to a deserving Fiji undergrad or grad student pursuing an Engineering degree.

While we have achieved the "quadruple win" of honoring Karl Belczyk, showing Phi Gam's leadership, celebrating the University in its 200th year, and helping future generations of FIJI engineers achieve their academic goals, we are asking for your support in furthering this effort, as all additional donations will create a larger pool of funds that will only add to the effort of helping future Fijis obtain their educational goals.

Donations can be made online via credit card at <https://engineering.virginia.edu/power-your-support> or you can mail a check.

Using the special instruction box, please indicate your gift is for the "Phi Gamma Delta Karl Belczyk Memorial Scholarship"

For additional information, please contact Neil McPherson @ nmcphers@msn.com (cell +1-917-209-4872) or Todd Schwanewede @ todd.schwanewede@stryker.com (cell +1-201-370-8116).

STATE OF 128 MADISON LANE

We just finished another year at Omicron, and as is typical this time of year, the house is a mess. I say that in full transparency because we need to do better. We've talked about it at great length with the chapter over the past few years, but we need to start DOING something.

So here is what we are doing:

Starting next year, the house will be closed during the summer months. Brothers will not be able to leave their rooms or common areas a mess. We will do formal check out inspections, and any cleaning/hauling of trash will come out of the tenants' security deposits and be completed BEFORE reunions.

With a clean house, we will be able to do repairs and renovations more efficiently but more importantly we will also be "resetting" the house – and expectations. Incoming tenants should not arrive to a mess and believe it is either acceptable or the status quo.

It also means that the chapter's fall work days will be spent less on hauling out trash and more on improving the house. Our hope is that as the Chapter invests more time and effort up front into improving the house – the better they will maintain it throughout the year.

We are also going to start professionally cleaning the bathrooms and dining room on a regular basis. I know some of you are probably shaking your heads, picturing a maid looking after the brothers, but that is not what we are talking about here. We are talking about making sure 75+ brothers and 26 full time ten-

ants have a sanitary place to eat and wash up. They will still be responsible for cleaning the rest of the property.

What does this mean for you?

Well, our goal is to have a house that you would not only be proud to bring your family back to – but also comfortable eating dinner at and using the bathroom. We want to make sure that your gifts to the house, and our investments in time, don't get wasted by lack of simple care and maintenance.

We'd like to get to the point where we can offer the house to graduates as a place to stay during reunions, etc. But let's be honest, some of you are just as bad as the brothers when it comes to cleaning up after yourselves! In all seriousness though, we are now at 1000+ graduates. We want more of you coming back to 128. We want it to be a comfortable place for you to reconnect with your brothers and a place you can relax with your families.

I hope you will continue to support the Chapter. There's always a reason not to give, but think hard about some of the reasons why you should. If something is bothering you, write a letter to the chapter. The Corresponding Secretary needs something to do... I guarantee you he isn't cleaning the bathroom! Let the brothers know how you feel and challenge them to make things better. Then be sure to come back at Pig Dinner and Reunions and show them Phi Gam isn't for college days alone.

PERGE!

Nick Feakins '05

President, Omicron Chapter House Society



Brother,

You'll see that over 20 graduates have already given this year to support Omicron.

As we wrap up another successful year, I hope you will join me in showing your support by making a donation to show Omicron is Not Just For College Days Alone. Those Brothers who have already pledged their support in 2018 are listed below and their generosity is very much appreciated.

In the coming year we are planning to replace both of the front patio doors and begin a renovation of the upstairs bathroom. These efforts are part of our ongoing capital plan to keep 128 Madison Lane an example of Phi Gam excellence.

In addition, we are taking a number of steps to ensure that 128 is in a better condition to receive graduates during homecoming and reunions. We hope these efforts will encourage you and your family to make it back to Charlottesville and 128 in particular.

PERGE!

Nick Feakins '05
President, Omicron Chapter House Society

GRADUATE DONORS JANUARY 1, 2018 - JULY 1, 2018

500 +

Jack & Marianne Burkart '68
Nick & Allie Feakins '05

250 +

H.J. Macdonald Radcliffe USMC '60
Christopher & Caroline Henningsen '74
Ian S. Lawton '80
Kevin L. Beicke '01
Gregory C. Treharne '02

128 +

Charles B. Arrington Jr. '55
James H. McGrath III '57
Christopher P. Woodburn '87
Michael & Christina Outten '05
Thomas R. Hayne '09
Michael L. Woosley Jr. '91

28 +

Jarrett D. Spencer '03

28 + Continued

Steven & Morgan Driskill '06 & '09
Kyle S. Fuschetti '06
Dan & Molly Laufer '06 & '07
John Schisler '09
Joseph T. Vergara '10
Ross A. Jacobson '11
Sean J. McAuliffe '14
Henry A. Pollard '18
Tyler Sudbrink '18

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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

MAKE SURE TO UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION AT WWW.UVAFIJI.ORG

THE OMICRON CHAPTER
OF PHI GAMMA DELTA AT THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

PHI GAMMA DELTA EXISTS TO PROMOTE LIFELONG FRIENDSHIPS, REAFFIRM HIGH ETHICAL STANDARDS AND VALUES, AND FOSTER PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE.

| BROTHERS | GRADUATES | RUSHEES | PARENTS |

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UPDATE INFO HERE

Donate Online Now

Founded in 1848, Phi Gamma Delta has over 137 undergraduate chapters throughout the United States and Canada and has initiated 170,000+ brothers. The

As our numbers have grown, so have our costs for printing and mailing our biannual newsletters. In February 2018, we sent an online-only edition of The Omicron.

You can help ensure we have the correct email address for you by updating it online. Please take 60 seconds to go online and update your information at: <http://uvafiji.org>

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2018

Brother

Ben Schools
Caleb Vineyard
Christian Mitchell
Dax Leiter
Greg Johnson
Henry Pollard
Jack Stanganelli
Joe Tidwell
KJ Grubiak
Kurt Diduch
Kyle Burnett

Destination

Continuing education in Charlottesville
Booz Allen Hamilton; Washington, DC
Carnival Cruises; Miami, FL
AutoNation; Fort Lauderdale, FL
Berkeley Research Group; DC
Oracle; Austin, TX
Clack Construction; Bethesda, MD
Peace Corps; Dominican Republic
Oracle; Austin, TX
ICF; Richmond, VA
Jefferies Group; NYC

Brother

Logan Mitchell
Luke Shields
Nate Fox
Nick D'Addio
Oliver Edelman
Rob Morelli
Sheldon Gray
Shep Walker
Spencer Godine
Tyler Sudbrink
Will Carbaugh

Destination

United States Marine Corps
Fahrenheit 212; NYC
S&P Global; DC
Peace Corps; Samoa
MS in Commerce at McIntire; Charlottesville
Fisher Investments; Portland, Oregon
MM.LaFleur; NYC
Aldi; Bethesda, MD
Oracle; Austin, TX
CapTech; Richmond, VA
Turner Construction; NYC

