

THE OMICRON

CHAPTER OF PHI GAMMA DELTA - UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

WWW.UVAFIJI.ORG



Chapter Update and Farewell

It is bittersweet to say that this newsletter is the icing on the cake for my presidential duties here on Mad Lane. My term has taught me a range of skills that I'll carry with me until The Immortal Six come knocking at my door. From learning the top strategies for getting 65 fraternity men to wake up at 8 AM and run to Lynchburg (RAV if you're unfamiliar) to learning how to shake the master key just right and open the historian's closet in the basement of The Temple. The challenges I faced and the skills I learned (some admittedly more applicable than others) have led serving my brothers of 128 to be the most fruitful and rewarding experience of my college career.

Fortunately, all of the challenges facing 128 during my term were handily dealt with by a strong team of Beans. To my outgoing exec board, Tucker Colerick '20, Josh Hurwitz '20, James Parkerson '20, and Bryce McGlothlin '20, I am forever grateful. Without each of your consistent efforts and contributions, I fear our chapter would be in a very different place today. Welcoming our new cabinet of Phi Gam Gentlemen (William Omberg '21, Jack Scheman '21, Griffin Root '21, Sutton Blanchard '21, and Wes Sebastian '20), I see great potential with you all. The future of 128 will continue to succeed under your influence.

Thinking back on what fall 2018 brought to our humble spot on Madison, I am filled with joy. Another great season of philanthropy and tailgating has led to more revelry and brotherhood than we've ever seen. Big thanks to our Purple Legionnaire (John Fraser '88) who invited many of us undergraduate Beans for some "crushables and smoked meat" at graduate tailgates! The comradery that every Omicron share goes beyond the four short years of undergraduate schooling—that fact is clear to me now.

Looking forward, I am both grateful and humbled to have played a part in an organization that has changed the lives of so many men for the better. Luckily, I'll be around for a bit longer to enjoy it! I will be continuing my

undergraduate experiences living below the Ace and below Dictor's accomplished gaze until I move into a house with my pledge class next fall. I will also be serving on the Inter-Fraternity Council for UVA as Vice President of Administration and will continue to serve in the best interest of not only our own 128 but for the fraternity system as a whole. The relationships I've established with all of my fellow Omicrons I hope to continue. I wish all of my brothers the best and I look forward to our next encounter at The Temple to be sooner, rather than later.

Health and long life to you, Land without rent to you, A child every year to you, And may you die in Ireland... (or) the Deck. (Cron 1:28)

Fraternally,
Justin Fox '20
 Chapter President 2018
 Perge!

SAVE *the* DATE
September 28, 2019

We are excited to announce this year's Frank Norris Pig Dinner will be Saturday, September 28, 2019. In response to graduate feedback, we are moving Pig Dinner to a non-football weekend and will be holding it at a venue in Charlottesville.

The Pig Dinner committee and I will provide more details as we get closer, but please mark your calendars and book hotels. Some of the best around UVA still include the Graduate, the Courtyard Marriott, the Omni on the Downtown Mall and the newly built Draftsman. We highly encourage you to book rooms while they are still available - you can always cancel if your plans change.

By any means, please let me know if you have any questions. We cannot wait to have you back!

Perge!
Sutton Blanchard '21
 slbgfp@virginia.edu
 Corresponding Secretary



Omicron Mentors Unite!

RESOURCE

Alum available for email and phone talks; written recommendations.

ADVISOR

Alum available to meet in person and make personal connections in same vertical business or geographic area.

MENTOR

Alum creates or facilitates the creation of an internship or externship program for matched undergrad.

BEANS & BLESSINGS

Andy Herz CLAS '84

My two best life decisions were (1) coming to UVA and (2) joining the Fiji House. At least a dozen other brothers - younger and older - have shared that same sentiment in recent months.

From the first night, I walked into 128 MADISON LANE, the Fiji's have been my second family - brothers in the truest sense of the word.

Walking up the steps to the Temple back in September of 1980, I met the Dungleison dorm squad of my soon to be pledge brothers - Karl Belczyk (RIP), Mike Dillon, Joe Grafmuller, Frank Petz and Dave Toombs.

Inside, I babbled with an incredible variety of Beans: Bill Schachtel, Pat Hagan and Pete Schleck. I spent an hour on the Deck discussing life, the universe and everything with the noted trio of Scott Medvetz, Phil Christopher and Kevin O'Brien.

At the end of the night, I hung out with LJ - Larry Johnson. LJ was an ever-smiling Buddha. For me, an ever-calm voice in many out of control storms; an always smiling and wise man who became central to my life - and many of our lives.

After a while, LJ put Bob Marley's *Catch a Fire* on the turntable (yes, "turntable") - and introduced me to reggae and Rastafari.

That's kind of insane - all that in my first night at the House. Ever since my life has been infinitely blessed with musical inspiration and lifelong friends.

Soon after, as a (seriously) sh'tty pledge - I crushed during Big Weekends with alums like Chandler Fox, Gary Bullock, Matt Swingle, and Charlie Mayer. To this day, I'm lucky to hang out with, seek clues from and call these guys my brothers. And, over the years, I've also become close with a lot of much younger Crons, from every decade.

The shared memories of crushing, babbling, and ecstatic band parties bind us together. But I have also learned more business and life lessons from my Omicron brothers than in any classroom or job.

So I believe strongly in the Omicron Mentorship Program envisioned by Jon Fraser and undergrads William Omberg and Ben Kava. With a database, some admin help and a little effort by those alums and undergrads who want to be involved, we can extend and reinforce personal and professional connections within the brotherhood. And that's a damn worthy goal.

Please learn more and sign your name at uvafiji.org if you want to be part of the program

Andy Herz '84 | College of Arts & Sciences
Technology / Entertainment attorney and producer
Email: andrewherzesq@gmail.com
Cell: (475) 400-6211

DETAILS

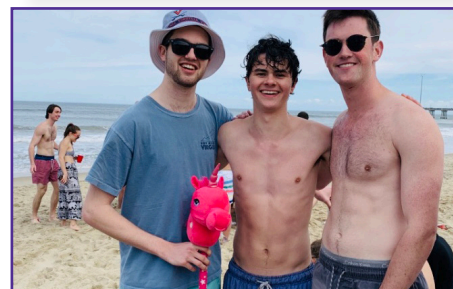
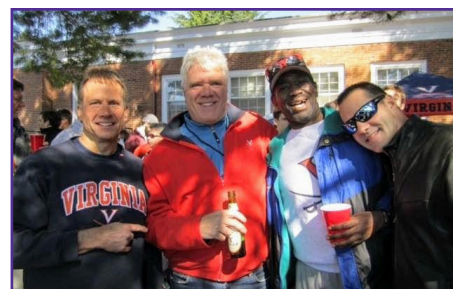
We have established the framework for a mentorship program connecting Omicron alums and undergrads.

The immediate goals are (1) to give undergrads a leg up in their job searches and (2) to forge deeper connections between the alumni and undergraduate brotherhood.

We have set up a spreadsheet of undergrads' and pledges' contact information and career interests. We have created a parallel list for potential alumni mentors.

The program is flexible and efficient - you can put in a little bit of time, a bit more - or a lot (see table to left).

As with most startup operations, the first step is to build a critical mass of users. We need some early adopters. It's an easy way to give back and reconnect with the awesome Beans currently in the House. So check it out at uvafiji.org and sign up today!



MENTOR PHOTOS

Mentoring Continued...

Visit uvafiji.org to read all mentorship letters from Andy Herz, William Omberg, Ben Kava, and Jonathan Fraser.

INCOMING PRESIDENT

WILLIAM OMBERG '21

To the young alumni and those still young at heart, it is my pleasure to address you for the first time as the incoming chapter president. I inherited a brotherhood as strong as it has ever been -- winning Outstanding Philanthropic Event of the Year, the Mark Leonida Memorial Outstanding Sportsmanship and Intramural Sports Award, and my predecessor, Justin Fox, winning Outstanding Chapter President of the Year at this year's UVA Greek Awards.

As you all know, the Chapter is only as strong as its newest pledge class, and I can say with the utmost confidence that spring 2019's represents the friendship, morality, service, and excellence of Omicron on all cylinders. Between the 26 of them, there are three countries, two Division 1 sports teams, one Omicron Legacy, a handful of Echols Scholars, and a brotherhood that will last a lifetime.

To ensure this bond will only grow as the years go by, I have been working with graduates Jonathan Fraser '88 and Andrew Herz '84 to create a formal mentorship program between the undergraduate brotherhood and the 1,000 Omicron graduates who have shaped 128 Madison into what it is today.

This is a multistep process that will require some effort on both sides, and only will be as sustainable as those who take part in it. The idea is that a simple email or phone call between an interested undergraduate and a graduate counterpart (in a relevant profession or geographic region or with a similar interest) will lead to the start of a confluent professional and social bond. The undergrad will be able to grow his professional network for internships and jobs; the grad will be able to tap into a motivated and skilled base of young professionals.

Professional success aside, this should strengthen the lifetime bond of what it means to be an Omicron, and give grads more of a reason to return to the Temple. After all, everyone reading this has walked through the same doors, once in the same shoes. Future iterations of the program will include speaker series, networking events, and more graduate-inclusive social events on Mad Lane.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have interest in this program, in any capacity. The Brotherhood, from all decades, will reap the rewards. As always, 128 eagerly awaits your return, filled with laughter, stories from the weekend, and the same walls since 1912.

WHO YA GONNA CALL?

JONATHAN FRASER '88

Entering the House moments before a Chapter meeting in fall 2017, the undergrad officers asked me to introduce myself to the entire brotherhood. It was a well-attended meeting, the first of the year and my first as Purple Legionnaire.

Looking over the 60-70 faces assembled around the Chow Room, familiar with fewer than a quarter of them, I tossed out this impromptu question:

"Would a conversation with a graduate in your area of study interest all of you?"

Although I meant it mostly rhetorically, the undergraduates eager and unanimous answer was "Absolutely!"

Brothers: "Will you accept a call from an undergrad Phi Gam?"

That Q&A has developed over the last few years into The Omicron Mentorship Program. The undergraduates have built a database of their majors and professional areas of interest and graduates have been informally polled regarding their interest.

We ask each Omicron alum to consider making themselves available for - at minimum - a phone call with an undergraduate brother. Thanks to all who have already done so and those who have agreed to sustain this effort going forward.

Where we go and how far we build from this minimum ask, "The work shows us how to work."

Jonathan Fraser '88 | Architecture

Construction Management; RE Development (ROI);
Sustainability & System Engineering the Built Environment
Email: fraserjb@gmail.com
Cell: (804) 928-5813

Graduate Relations & Alumni Chair *BEN KAVA '21*

I hope this note finds you all well and enjoying the start of the spring season! I write to you today to both introduce myself as well as to ask for your support in an imminent initiative designed to help increase graduate-undergraduate relations.

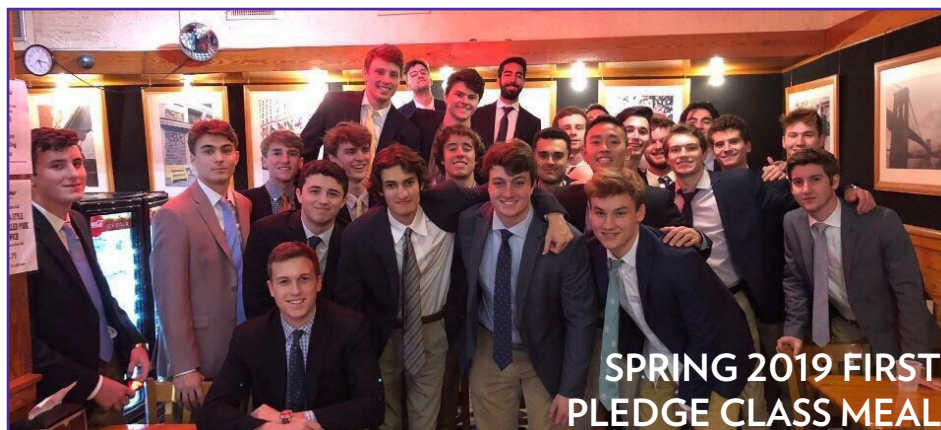
My name is Ben Kava and I am the current Graduate Relations and Alumni chair of 128. Along with President William Omberg '21, Jonathan Fraser '88, and Andrew Herz '84, I have been working this past year to set up an extensive mentorship program for undergraduate brothers and alumni to connect. But rather than bore you with pages of details, I'd like to tell you a little bit about how this program started.

Back in September, Will and I began discussing ways to rekindle some of our relationships with grads. We always love spending time with alums when they come back to the House, and so we wanted to find a way to not only make 128 more welcoming to you all but to ensure that we're doing our part, as undergraduates, to preserve the deep bonds and friendships rooted in this fraternity.

After initial brainstorming, Will and I met with Andy to follow through on next steps. Through dinner, phone calls, and constant communication, Andy has exemplified what this program is truly intent on achieving. Andy has been a role model to me and Will, and in setting up this mentorship program has already accomplished one of its goals: connecting generations of Omicrons. I know too that I speak for Andy when I say this process has brought him closer to the undergraduate brothers in the House today.

To all Grads, I hope that you will join our efforts in strengthening this brotherhood, upholding our fraternal bonds, and embracing our foundation of "not for college days alone." Should you have any questions about the details of this program, or simply want to reach out to connect, please don't hesitate to contact me at brk2cr@virginia.edu.

I hope to be in contact with many of you soon and to relive the stories and memories you are sure to share of 128.



NEWLY INITIATED BROTHERS 2019

Matthew Lee Angles | *Vienna, VA*

Matheus Hasler Martins Barreto | *Sao Paulo, Brazil*

Bo Riley Blair | *Tampa, FL*

Matthew Micheal Brimmer | *Harrisonburg, VA*

Ryan Walter Brown | *Oakton, VA*

Eric Nicholas Celenti | *Holmdel, NJ*

Evan Anderson Clark | *Richmond, VA*

Robbie Matthew Denton | *McLean, VA*

John (Jack) Patrick Driscoll | *Greenwich, CT*

Colin Philip Duignan | *Bronxville, NY*

Armaan Harjani | *London, England*

Tiago Rivero de Toledo Magalhaes | *Salvador, Brazil*

Jake Samson Malasek | *Charlottesville, VA*

Edward (Eddie) Anthony Micklovic | *Long Branch, NJ*

George Nilson Miroulis | *Virginia Beach, VA*

Quang Dang Nguyen | *Reston, VA*

Christopher Sergeivitch Obolensky | *Great Falls, VA*

Matthew Hamilton Parsons | *Bear Creek, PA*

Caden William Schuessler | *Prospect, KY*

Carson Wesley Schwertner | *Georgetown, TX*

John (Jack) Sidney Sherwood | *Fredericksburg, VA*

Benjamin Schryver Stanley | *Washington, D.C.*

Michael Keith Gerard Swingle | *Arlington, VA*

Matthew McGowan Walsh | *Winchester, MA*

Patrick Shea Welch | *McLean, VA*

Fred Marshall Wood | *Charlotte, NC*

State of 128 Madison Ln.



It has been a busy year at 128 Madison Lane. As some of you may be aware, we use Piedmont Facility Management for both proactive and reactive maintenance at the house. Previously, we paid an up-front fee that included a number of proactive maintenance services, then a reduced rate for all subsequent service calls. The price had grown considerably and it was difficult to track what had been done versus what hadn't because all the prepaid items were excluded from our monthly invoices. We were actually the only house still doing this and so this year we switched over to a flat pay-as-you-go model. We did ask to receive multiple invoices each month, however: one for damages/vandalism, one for maintenance/repairs, and one for renovations. This gives us a lot more visibility into our spending as well as trends (are damages from Elmo up, for example).

In terms of renovations, the big effort this year was the second-floor bathroom. This was a request of the brothers, and something that we undertook in the spirit of preventing future work (due to leaks in the tile) and keeping the house looking nice for brothers, rushees, graduates, and guests.

Initially envisioned as a studs up renovation, we were able to significantly reduce the scope – and more importantly, the cost – thanks to the dedicated involvement of many of our graduates. Steve Surprenant '78, Jonathan Fraser '88, Jeremy Hogg '03, and Scott Medvetz '83 contributed a great deal of time into making this project a success.

The other big accomplishment was finishing the majority of the effort over the holiday break, rather than having to postpone to the summer. This meant we were done in time to show it off for rush. As I stated in our last newsletter, we are taking a lot of steps to try and maintain the house in a cleaner fashion.

Starting this summer, the house will be closed June-July. 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.

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.

With all this in mind, 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. Let the brothers know how you feel and challenge them to make things better. Then be sure to come back for Pig Dinner in September and show them Phi Gam isn't for college days alone.

Perge!

Nick Feakins '05

President, Omicron Chapter House Society



Graham Williams pledged Omicron in the spring of 2009. During his time as an undergrad, he served as Historian and House Manager. A proud Wharfman, Graham also served on pledge education and co-chaired the Run Across Virginia. He served on the Board of Chapter Advisors for the two years immediately following his graduation in 2012. Graham returned to his home town of New Orleans and went on to Tulane Law. He now practices commercial litigation at Adams and Reese, where he focuses on civil racketeering claims, unfair trade practices, and Directors' and Officers' liability (a perfect addition to House Corp!). Graham serves as the General Counsel of the Young Leadership Council and serves as a member of Tulane Law's Dean's Advisory Board. He also fundraises for Boys Hope Girls Hope and the American Cancer Society. In his free time, Graham makes his own wine and is currently studying for the Level 1 Sommelier exam.

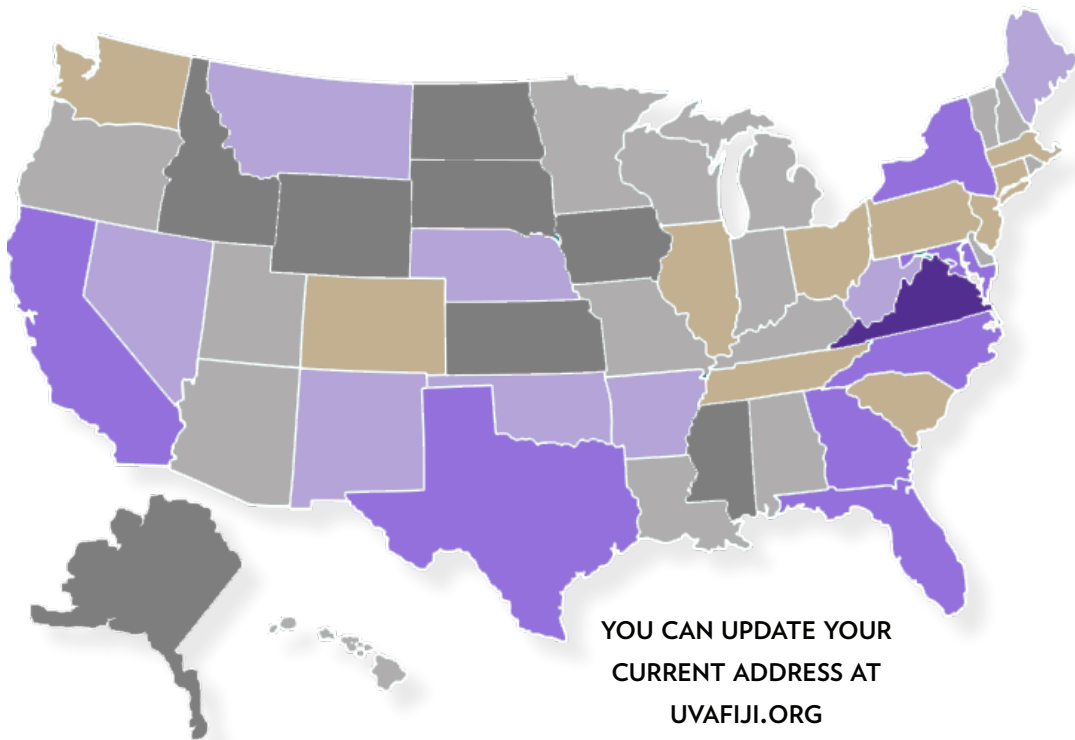


Please join me in welcoming Graham to the Omicron Chapter House Society (House Corporation).

House Corp is made up of nine graduate directors and three undergraduate directors. Each director is elected to a two-year term but is eligible for re-election at the end of that term. A number of our directors have been serving for quite a long time and would appreciate passing the baton to other dedicated graduates. If you are interested in learning more or would like to volunteer your services, please reach out to me.

Nick Feakins '05
 President, Omicron Chapter House Society
 (804) 869-2758 | invausa@yahoo.com

FIJI ALUMNI AND ACTIVES ACROSS THE U.S.



321 IN VIRGINIA

30 - 59

10 - 29

3 - 9

1 - 2

NO ACTIVE FIJI MEMBERS

NOT PICTURED

BRAZIL - 2	PERU - 1
CAMBODIA - 1	SWEDEN - 1
CANADA - 3	TURKEY - 1
CZECH REPUBLIC - 1	UNITED KINGDOM - 4
PAKISTAN - 1	

Establishment of Parent's Fund

Brothers,

In recent years, the chapter has had growing support from parents. One of the results of this support has been the establishment of a Parents' Fund.

This year, the Parents' Fund has been a huge success. Throughout the course of this year, we have added new chapter room chairs, window blinds, rugs, cabinets, kitchenware, tools, and other furnishings that have added much to the aesthetic and function of our house.

Looking ahead, we have several major projects in the works—all of which have been chosen democratically through polling completed in the fall. Currently, we are working with contractors to secure a line of shrubs and trees on the north side of our property. Our hope is that we will create a more distinct boundary between our house and Elmo that would improve the visual appeal of our location while adding additional privacy. Secondly, we hope to encourage more brotherhood bonding by constructing patio-like improvements that would include a raised porch and a trellis from which to hang lights. Finally, while the timeline is still evolving, we hope to remove upstairs carpeting and stain the floors in order to maintain cleanliness in an area that receives heavy foot traffic.

We are excited to work together and share our ideas to make our house as beautiful as possible. We are thankful for our many parent benefactors, who, as of late, have made a series of extremely generous donations, a strong indication that they support the direction of our house. Also, none of this could have been done without the continued hard work of Mrs. Jennifer McGlothlin, the parent liaison to the fund, and our other parents who take part in the vision of our fraternity.

Gratefully,

Andrew Holmes '20



PARENT'S FUND DONATES NEW CHANDELIER

CALL to ACTION

We're looking for a few good 'Crons. Whether you are interested in serving on BCA/House Corp or just looking to volunteer a bit of your expertise on a specific effort, we could use your help! Below is a list of just some of the ways you can get involved and make a big difference in the Chapter this year...

Contact Nick Feakins to get involved at (804) 869-2758 or invausa@yahoo.com

Mentorship Program

There are multiple ways to get involved here; whether you choose to work with Jonathan and Andy on developing the program or just want to volunteer your time as a resource, advisor or mentor, please consider registering on the uvafji.org website so we can begin to forge connections between undergraduate and graduate brothers.

Spread the Word

If nothing else, we hope you will like us on Facebook and join the Omicron LinkedIn group to show your support of Omicron. Links to both of these can be found at uvafji.org

House Corporation

Nine graduates serve on House Corp, each for a two-year term. At a minimum, you need to be available for two/three conference calls a year but we hope you will consider contributing more of your time than that. Over the past few years, we have tried to diversify the board not only in terms of decades represented but also in terms of professional backgrounds.

Board of Chapter Advisors

Typically the BCA pulls from the most recent graduates in an attempt to better advise the chapter in daily operations and provide institutional knowledge transfer between subsequent executive boards. Most importantly, the BCA is responsible for Officer Orientation and ongoing mentorship to the Chapter's leaders throughout the year.

Renovation Projects

A number of projects are in the works, including efforts to renovate the basement and backyard patio to make them both more usable. If you would like to lend your expertise or enthusiasm for these efforts, we could really use the support.

Graduate Newsletter

Alumni Hall puts our newsletters together for us, but we could use your help in gathering news, articles, etc for both the fall and spring newsletters. A lot of time goes into writing/editing content and we could really use some of you College of Arts and Sciences majors to help us here.

Reunions

The University's decision to split Reunions into two weekends and our recent decision to close the house for June/July has made supporting Reunions challenging. We'd really like to identify some class captains who could coordinate Fiji classes coming back each year.

Pig Dinner

BCA is working with Exec to re-evaluate Pig Dinner from the bottom up. We are looking for some grads that could help with this effort and possibly take a leadership role in coordinating with the undergrads for planning and executing Pig Dinner.

House Management

Piedmont Facilities Management handles the day-to-day maintenance, but we could use some graduates who would be willing to roll up their sleeves and work with the undergrads on a number of different projects.

Undergrad Treasurer

Knowledgeable in budgeting? The chapter could use some assistance. The Chapter now uses Legacy Financial to help collect dues, parlor fees, meal plan, and rent, but budgeting and planning would benefit from some graduate involvement.

Brothers,

You'll see that over 15 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 2019 are listed below and their generosity is very much appreciated.

In the coming year, we are looking to replace the upstairs carpet with wood or vinyl and beginning the planning around the back patio and basement. 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. If you haven't already made your arrangements for Pig Dinner in September, I hope you will consider it.

Perge!

Nick Feakins '05

President, Omicron Chapter House Society

Graduate Donors January 1, 2019 - May 1, 2019

500+

Kevin L. Beicke '01

250+

Michael and Nancy Sorensen '70

Frederick and Sallie Iselin '73

Matthew and Karen Swingle '79

128+

Albert and Shelley Huntington '00

28+

Steven and Morgan Driskill '06

Kyle & Jean Fuschetti '06

Scott Ankers '09

John Schilsler '09

David Clark '10

Joseph Vergara '10

Colin Kent '15

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

Thank you for your support!

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Omicron Chapter of Phi Gamma Delta



Scuccifest on the James
A Music Festival on the James River (FIJI band Frayed Knot performing)
Saturday, September 21
1 p.m. - 9 p.m.

American Legion Post 354
4800 Welby Turn
Midlothian, Virginia 23113