



The

Sigma Omicron

Oklahoma State University of Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity - Spring 2015 Edition



New Chapter House

UPDATE FROM THE HOUSE CORP PRESIDENT

Greetings Brothers,

For those who were unable to join in our annual celebration at Pig Dinner, we were able to view architect Mark Krittenbrink's presentation of the new house design. Here is the most current updated information from the SOHA, progress of our capital campaign and status of the project financing.

For the period ending March 31, 2015, the capital campaign numbers show we have increased both our pledged dollars and paid committed pledge dollars. The increase of some \$60,000, in new pledges is the result of the "push campaign" (Oct 1-Dec 31). The brothers who worked on this volunteer team are to be commended for their time, tenacity, and dedication to our campaign. If you were called and have not responded, please consider our URGENT NEED for more capital and complete the attached pledge form.

Current data shows:

- Total committed = \$2,364,633
- Total Paid = \$1,365,566

- Total contributors = 225

We will be at the close of the initial five year campaign soon. We have a sixth year commitment from many brothers who generously added another year to their pledge for the challenge. If any of you are willing to ADD AN EXTRA YEAR, it would be greatly appreciated. Please contact me at rwhittaker@pixi-us.net or **Ryan Bebee '95** at ryanbebee@cox.net for more information.

The last point regarding the campaign is painful: PAST DUES. There are pledges made at the start of the campaign that show \$0.00 paid or some payments have been missed. Unless these pledges were directed as a "back loaded" payment in full at the end of the campaign, these brothers accounts are past due. Please honor your commitment and catch up on installment payments, or remit the full pledge amount at the final due date. The total past due number is \$218,123!!!

Our most exciting news is the

most favorable financial structure for our mortgage. At Pig Dinner, SOHA Treasurer **Chris Neurohr '03** presented the best case scenario. We have actually exceeded those numbers and are at the final stage of filing the papers for both the construction and permanent loan. The lender, Arvest, accepted a fixed interest rate (Prime), a renewable term (five-year fixed renewable at Prime), amortization (25 years) and discounted origination and closing costs. We will realize a savings of \$90-100K over the life of our mortgage as a result of our FIJI "persistence." Clicks to brothers **Neurohr '03**, **Michael Martin '05** and **Matt Winzeler '09**.

In the weeks following the Pig Dinner, the process for starting construction has continued to move forward. Krittenbrink Architects, Lambert Construction, and the Construction Committee met March 31 to review and finalize floor plans, gather data for permitting, do a walk-

(continued on page 2)

HIGHLIGHTS

- Currently, the Capital Campaign has 225 contributors, who have pledged \$2,387,450 toward our \$2.5 million goal. Renew your commitment to Sigma Omicron today by making a contribution using the enclosed form and envelope.
- A special thanks to all who braved the undesirable travel conditions and attended the 2015 Pig Dinner! 120 people attended in spite of the weather.

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UPDATE FROM THE HOUSE CORPORATION PRESIDENT CONTINUED...

thru of the kitchen with Mom Rena and the food service staff and discuss the construction budget. Utilizing the input from Committee Members **Scott Aneshansley '95**, **Jim Quigley '79**, **Kim Cunningham '75**, and the SOHA Executive Committee, the design of the house and the reality of the budget are coming together to bring Sigma Omicron the highest quality, functionality, and affordability for our new chapter house at 1123 University.

We are waiting for the Guaranteed Maximum Price of construction from Lambert Construction. The plans they are working from are for the best design that has been developed. If the GMP comes in and is over our budget, we will need to alter the plans to fit the budget. We either lower materials cost, reduce the size of the house, or both. We will not build something we cannot afford. Our best option is to have our Grad Brothers who have not donated to do so and those who have to

honor their pledge and remit ASAP. The future of Sigma Omicron's new house will be determined by the generosity of our Graduate Brothers and their dedication to the ideals and principals of Phi Gamma Delta...most notably "self-sacrifice for my brothers."

Fraternally,

Randall L. Whittaker '70

Perge!

A LETTER FROM THE CHAPTER PRESIDENT

Dear Brothers,

It is with great honor that I write this letter, because it is a marvelous time to be a Fiji at Oklahoma State. During the past year, we've made some great strides and maintained excellence within the Chapter.



Gamma Triton Pledge Class - Fall 2014

Our recruitment endeavor, led by **Jordan Thomas '16**, began in March 2014, on Greek Discovery Day, when 465 high school seniors passed through our house to learn about Greek Life. Many came back and expressed their interest in the Fraternity. Rush continued through the end of June 2014, and 39 men signed their bid cards with FIJI, joining the Gamma Triton pledge class. The new pledges are involved on campus and are decorated with a variety of accomplishments. They are: members of the OSU's President's Leadership Council, All-State Vocalists, All-State Athletes, a National Merit Scholar and a DECA State President. The recruitment chairmen, **Jordan Thomas '16**, **Michael Christopher '16**, **Grant Newton '17** and **Tanner Robison '16** all deserve a special thank you for their hard work throughout the spring semester and summer months to make recruitment the #1 strength of the

chapter.

During the summer, many brothers worked toward their career goals, served the community and continued their education. Brothers received great job opportunities and coveted internship positions with an impressive list of companies, including: Koch Industries, Exxon-Mobil, Chesapeake Energy, Phillips 66, ConocoPhillips, Verizon, Georgia-Pacific and Baker Hughes. Other brothers took the summer as an opportunity to serve by volunteering at free health clinics and as camp counselors at Kanakuk Kamps and church camp. Also, many brothers went to Europe to study abroad, including seven brothers who spent four weeks in France.

Our chapter excellence continued during the fall 2014 semester. America's Greatest Homecoming Celebration was the weekend of October 24-25, 2014. We paired with the women of Chi Omega, for the theme "Our Time Here," and brought home 1st place in House Decoration and 3rd place in the Sweepstakes Award. Our Homecoming Directors were **Evan Pazzo '14**, **Cole Mount '15**, **Sam Baril '15**, **Tye Berman '16**, **Kyle Alexander '17**, **Conner Van Loan '15**, **Will Brooks '15**, and **Luke Alaback '16**. FIJI demonstrated our musical talents in the annual Freshman Follies Show, paired with the women of Pi Beta Phi. The freshmen members, led by head director John Howard, won 1st place in the show. The group

also won the awards for Best Vocals and Most Dedicated Cast, and Howard won Best Male Director. Everyone involved deserves a huge round of applause.

Also this past fall, the chapter initiated our Academic Adviser, **Richard Buchanan '14**, on Saturday, October 18. Buchanan is a professor in the accounting department at Oklahoma State. He worked for many years in the industry and now works extensively with the City of Stillwater, the University, and the Greek Community. Buchanan has been heavily involved in chapter proceedings since his initiation, including setting up a new philanthropy opportunity for the brothers. We are very excited to have brought Brother Buchanan into our fold.

In light of our successes, we continue to move toward greater heights. We continue to strive to recruit talented men, instill valuable and practical life skills in our positive pledge program, give our time and efforts to worthy philanthropic causes and earn a distinguished grade point average. We also aim to compete at a high level in intramurals, musical productions, homecoming and other competitions in order to bear the name of FIJI in an esteemed manner.

Lastly, the undergraduates have pledged \$140,000 toward the capital campaign to update the chapter house. We take a lot of pride in our accomplishments, and by updating our house, we will continue to maintain the highest standing in the Greek Community. We thank you for all of your continued support.

Sincerely,

Brooks Walker '16
Chapter President

Perge!



Fall 2014 Homecoming Decoration



Thank you, Generous Graduates, for supporting the *Honoring Our Past, Ensuring Our Future* campaign!

CAMPAIGN STATUS AT-A-GLANCE

\$2.5 Million Goal • \$2,387,450 Total Commitments • 225 Total Contributors

Jeremy D. Wier '01

2002

Justin E. Boatsman '02
Andrew J. Burnett '02
Matthew J. Horner '02
Zachary R. Keller '02
Trenton R. McKnight '02
Craig M. Motichko '02
Christopher R. Neurohr '02
Ryan E. Petersen '02
Jeffrey R. Pinter '02
Matthew R. Pregler '02
Wesley B. Reed '02
Aaron R. C. Taylor '02

2003

Ryan D. Bennett '03
Travis R. Gaines '03
Christopher S. Gilliland '03
Derrick P. Mesch III '03
Clint A. Soderstrom '03

Chad M. Wolfe '03

2004

William T. Ahrberg '04
W. Tanner Cooper '04
R. Zak Dyer '04
Adam P. Hammack '04
C. Ryan Neurohr '04
Johnny P. Nguyen '04
Paul D. Stark '04
Christopher C. Walters '04

2005

Jacob W. Biby '05
Scott A. Blakemore '05
Jeremy S. Burt '05
Ty S. Fleming '05
R. Chad Grinnell '05
Michael P. Martin '05
Randall T. Nerger '05
Stephen J. Snider '05

2006

Michael R. Gilbert Jr. '06

Jacob E. Grinnell '06
Bryan D. Karns '06
Justin B. Welter '06

2007

Matthew K. W. Givens '07
Randy S. Green '07
Jerry P. Nguyen '07
Seth C. Slifer '07
Philip K. Widner '07

2008

Marcus B. Concienne '08
Clayton S. Constien '08
Matthew M. Drouhard '08
Christopher R. Edmonston '08
Joshua L. Harvey '08
Tate W. Johnson '08
Kenner G. Misner '08
Aaron V. Wilson '08

2009

Jared M. Denny '09
Lucas B. Elwell '09
Daniel K. Hayes Jr. '09
Layne E. Horton '09
Ryan K. Hunter '09
Matthew J. Morgan '09
Joseph K. Prochaska '09
Matthew D. Winzeler '09

2010

M. Aaron Chang '10
Chad M. Duty '10
Nicolas T. Wood '10

2011

Jonathan A. Chang '11
John M. Cook '11
Tyler L. Davis '11
Brett D. Tatum '11

2012

Corey Gable '12
Justin M. Wheeler '12

BUILDING FOR THE NEXT 50 YEARS

Brothers (both new and senior),

I hope you've noticed the names on this list and enjoyed reading about your peers participating in the *Building for the Next 50 Year* campaign. This long-time dream is becoming a reality. We have had several give a lot and many who are giving some. However, we still need more money and more participation to help us reach our goal. The more we can raise and collect, the less we'll have to borrow and can more easily cash-flow the project.

There are several groups and classes not represented. To help represent your class, please step up and give back to your Chapter and Fraternity that has given so much to many of us! If your name is not on this list, we really would like to see you help financially. If you are a younger graduate, your participation is requested. \$20/month will help us tremendously. If you are an undergraduate who would like to participate, please do so. Also, ask your big brother, little brother, pledge brother or roommate to do the same.

We'll accept donations from graduates, undergraduates, businesses, parents and grandparents towards our beautiful new chapter house. Please use the attached donor form and envelope and send in as soon as possible! You also may use the online donation page - www.phigam.org/SOHA Capital Campaign. You may give anonymously, in honor of or in memory of someone.

Any questions can be directed to Ryan Bebee at 405-394-6707 or Randall Whittaker at 316-259-7906.

Perge!

GRADUATE SPOTLIGHT: RICK POPLINGER '75



Why did you choose Oklahoma State? It was a much nicer looking school than OU and I had lots of friends from my hometown who were going to attend OSU.

Why did you pledge Phi Gamma Delta? It was the spirit of the

members when I visited. They were neither stuffy nor stuck up like some of the other fraternities. I enjoyed the camaraderie that I saw while visiting.

What is your favorite memory as an undergraduate? FIJI Island!! I was amazed the first time it was built. I couldn't believe how extensive and how much the backyard was changed for this party.

What is your favorite memory as a graduate so far? After school, I moved to Israel. While there, I gathered street urchins and put together a boys club. When I asked them what they would like to call their club, one of them asked what was written on my shirt... So our little club was known as the FIJIs!

I have done a lot of things since college; I have visited 40 different countries and lived in Israel for seven years. I have dual

citizenship with Israel and was in the Israeli army in Lebanon in 1984 and 1985. I tend to like action activities. I have "run with the bulls", been lowered underwater in a cage to see the Great White Sharks, bungee jumped, zip lined, flown, glided and even swam from Alcatraz Island to San Francisco Bay.

What kind of influence has the Fraternity had on your life?

Phi Gamma Delta was the first time I lived with such a diverse bunch of guys. It taught me that I could get along and enjoy others even if they were very different from me.

What activities were you involved in during college?

I was very active at college. I was on the skydiving team, the fencing team, the judo team, etc. I volunteered at the college hot line and worked with handicapped children. I eventually became the Outstanding Senior and the Scholarship award winner for Phi Gam. I was also on both the dean's and the president's honor roll.

Tell us about your family. I have two sons: Eitan, who is a computer programmer and Gil, who is doing graduate work in the Boston area.

What is your nickname and how did you get it? Pops. Obviously it comes from my last name.

Tell us about your career. I am a water treatment specialist for a multinational company.

What are your major interests now? Reading, piano playing, running and skydiving: Next month I will take part in a world record attempt. I am part of a group called SOS: Skydivers Over Sixty. We will try to put together the largest formation in freefall. I already hold one world record with SOS.



Rick skydiving

2015 PIG DINNER UPDATE

By: Ryan Bebee '95

In spite of the weather, we had 120 people attend – 55 grads, 50 undergrads and 15 guests. 175 had registered. The undergraduates' attendance was impacted by the Varsity Revue final competition (they ended up finishing in 2nd place with the women of Chi Omega). Also, 20 showed Friday evening at The Hideaway. The program length was 95 minutes, and the highlight was the presentation of the proposed chapter house. The meal, provided by the Rancher's Club, garnered rave reviews. We had another impressive presentation of the Exile's Toast was provided by **Zach Overton '96**.



L to R: Jerry Nguyen '07, Aaron Wilson '08, Josh Harvey '08, Clay Constien '08, Tate Johnson '08, Matt Drouhard '08

Special recognition to graduates, included:

- Patron of the Pig: **Bill Gagle '67**
- New Gold Owl: **Rob Lindsly '67**
- New Silver Owl: **Monte Moore '94, Russ Tull '93 and Jimmy Tharel '93.**
- Professor Bob Hamm Outstanding Graduate Brother: **Richard Buchanan '14.**

Sires and Sons were presented to:

- **Ron Clymer '79** and son **John '18**
- **Eric Knam '93** and son **Ryan '18**

The following undergraduate brothers received awards and were recognized:

- Friendship Award: **Sam Arnold '17**
- Mike Monroney Knowledge Award: **Cullen Duke '16**
- Service Award: **Chris Stockton '15**
- Kenny Marchetti Morality Award: **Brett Miles '17**
- Excellence Award: **Brooks Walker '16**

- Best Out-of-House brother: **Cole Mount '15**
- Downright Purple Award: **Ryan Knam '18**
- Bob Mathias Outstanding Athlete Award: **Blake Barnes '17**
- Model Pledge (Fall 2014): **Connor Drake '18**
- Geoff Grabow Model Brother Award: **Brooks Walker '16**
- Winners of the SOHA Scholarship, receiving \$500: **Sam Arnold '17, Tommy Cox '17, Cullen Duke '16, James Foxworth '17, and Ryan Knam '18.**

Thank you to those who made the trip and braved less than ideal traveling conditions - we had some familiar faces traveling in from Del Ray Beach and Orlando, FL, Spokane, WA, Vacaville, CA and Chicago.

The plan for the 2016 Pig Dinner is to have it in the Student Union Ballroom and hopefully, the Atherton Hotel will be completed. **Save the date - February 27, 2016.**