

PURPLE LINK

Tau Chi Chapter of Phi Gamma Delta

February 2005

TCU Box 296878
or
Martin Moore Hall
3504 Pond Drive
Fort Worth, Texas
76129
www.tcufiji.org

Upcoming Events

Spring Break
March 14-18

**Pig Dinner
Weekend**
April 15-16

Islander
April 30

Finals
May 9-13

Be sure to keep in touch on the graduate boards at www.tcufiji.org! Or send your updates to Travis English '98 (contact info on page 5)

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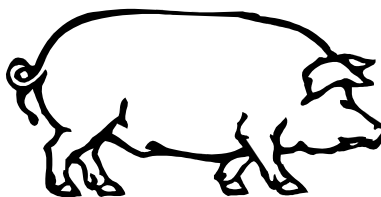
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Pig Dinner Weekend April 15-16, 2005



City Club
Downtown Fort Worth



Tau Chi's 25th Anniversary

Keynote Speaker
Archon Secretary
Bill Kramer
(Gettysburg '78)

Friday afternoon

Golf - Doug Thompson '84 and Jim Schorgl '84 are putting a group together
Flying Saucer - downtown Ft Worth
Half Acre Hall (2nd floor)

Friday 9pm

Saturday 12pm-3pm

Grads vs. Undergrads softball
Ed Collett Park, 4800 W. Vickery
BBQ and drinks provided

Saturday 6pm

27th Tau Chi Pig Dinner
City Club, Brothers Only this year
Casino Night benefiting the American Red Cross

Saturday 9pm

More details on Page 2
Please RSVP now for any and all Pig Dinner events to Travis English '98 (contact info on page 5)

PURPLE LEGIONNAIRE'S REPORT

A lot has taken place within the Tau Chi Chapter over the last year. Through most of 2004, Tau Chi was advised by a Graduate Trusteeship that worked with the Cabinet in running the Fraternity. The men achieved all of their benchmarks set before them including a chapter GPA over 3.0, increased programming both within the Chapter and on campus, a redevelopment of the pledge education program, and a complete remodel of the Chapter Room funded by alumni, parents, and labored by undergrads. As of October 4, 2004, the Tau Chi Chapter is in good standing with TCU and Phi Gamma Delta. In fact, the Chapter has made such an improvement in the last year that many representatives from the International Headquarters are urging Tau Chi to submit an application for the Most Improved Chapter (Condon Cup) throughout the entire Fraternity.

I have been very impressed with the new Cabinet, and am happy to have two Cabinet members from the previous Cabinet stay on board. They have set lofty yet attainable goals for the Chapter to achieve in 2005. The four areas the Cabinet will be focusing on are Scholarship, Pride, Retention and Public Relations. Although the Chapter scholarship has improved, there is still work to be done.

Scholarship - We initiated 15 of 19 pledges, and although an 80% initiation rate in the past was acceptable by some, we must increase that rate. The overall pledge class GPA must improve as well, and focusing the pledges on scholarship the minute they have that pledge pin will help to achieve this, as well as pledging men who have shown the desire to achieve scholarship.

Pride - In addition to more brotherhood events like Chapter retreats, there will be a focus on educating and reminding all members of the history of FIJI as well as the ideals it was founded upon.

Retention - One trend we aim to reverse is the poor overall retention rate. Too many Brothers have left the Chapter or TCU before the traditional four years. The focus must start with recruiting leaders who will be proud to work for the Chapter all four years. We then must continue to instill this work ethic and throughout pledgship and then past Initiation.

Public Relations - You will notice this year more mailings/emails with news about the Chapter. So will FIJI's headquarters, TCU's campus life office, FIJI parents, school and local publications, etc. There are positives within the Chapter and its members that need to be shared with the community and Landon Bryant ('07) will be making sure this happens as Corresponding Secretary. The Chapter has also created an Awards Chair to research what awards are available for the Chapter and its members and will facilitate the applications for those awards.

Now that the chapter is not being advised by the Trusteeship, we will start having BCA board meetings again. All alumni are welcome to attend these meetings to learn the latest Chapter news as well as to lend their advice and

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GRADUATE NEWS!

support. Keep an eye out for emails notifying you of the next BCA meeting. If you're email is not registered on the chapter website (www.tcufigi.org) please be sure to register as soon as possible. Rich Rogers ('92) has done a great job with the website and you should check it out.

Pig Dinner marks the 25th anniversary of Tau Chi receiving its charter. I am pleased to announce we have over 30 alumni already planning to attend, some of who will receive the first Silver Owl awards to acknowledge 25 years as an alum. Bill Kramer, who was Tau Chi's first Field Secretary and is now Archon Secretary for Phi Gamma Delta, will tell his story of helping found the Tau Chi Chapter and also give his views of Phi Gamma Delta as a whole. We would like the number of alumni at this year's dinner to far exceed the number of undergraduates.

We won't be hitting you up for donations...we just want you to be there! Hopefully you will like what you see and choose to get involved - at the very least making sure to return to Homecoming and Pig Dinner in the future.

Fraternally,
Travis J. English ('98)

Perge!

PIG DINNER DETAILS

- Softball game: In case of rainout, we will meet at Railhead BBQ at Montgomery/I-30 at noon
- City Club is in downtown Fort Worth at 301 Commerce St. - park in the Firehouse 1 Garage on Commerce, cross sky bridge to D.R. Horton Tower, and go up escalator on the right
- Cost of admission is \$35 per person and includes Casino Night entry
- Pig Dinner is BROTHERS ONLY this year
- Guests' Casino Night admission is \$10
- Brothers attending (as of Feb 9): Larry Frymire (Texas '76); Bill Kramer (Gettysburg '78); Frank Provenza ('80); 1981: Jeff Naquin, Kevin Kelley, Ruben Fechner; '84: Jim Schorgl, Doug Thompson; '92: Mark Fleek, Rich Rogers; '94: Jason Stephens; '95: Ryan Burns, Marc Stach; '96: Jack Doerr; '97: Mike McCown; '98: Travis English, Erik Harssema, Chris Haller, Mike Indergard, Carl Stansberger; '99: Bill Vassar, Will Huffman, Matt King, Eric Hall; '00: Kenny Stansberger; '01: Jeff Anderson, Brian King; '03: Clint Bolding, Ryan Hahn, Matt Nesson; '04: Brian McGee, Davis Jackson, Brennan Simi

GRADUATE NEWS!

- **Paul Hains '87**, an Army major, recently returned from Kosovo where he was a NATO peacekeeper for seven months
- **David Brewer '88** and wife Leslie announced the birth of son Brock, joining brother Bryce. David is regional VP for Acusis, a Pittsburgh-based healthcare company. They live in Allen, TX.
- **S. Marshall McAnelly '89** is the pastor of the Westhampton Presbyterian Church on Long Island, NY. He and wife Anne have two boys, Cooper, 8, and Parker, 5. Marshall is also a blackbelt in Taekwondo. pastor@westhamptonpresbyterian.net
- **Mark Fleek '92** and wife Michelle (Siepielski, TCU '92) announced the birth of son, Collin, last July, joining brother Scott, 4. Mark works for the Dept. of Homeland Security in Dallas.
- **Craig Crosby '94** wed Shannon Powers last May. Craig is a client rep for IBM. They live in Bedford, TX.
- **Tim McCanna '94** shares that his musical comedy, *The Cosmic Calamities of Henry Noodle*, is in this year's New York International Fringe Festival. www.henrynoodle.com
- **Kevin Barnett '95** and wife Sarah (Hawk, TCU Theta '96) announced the birth of daughter Kendall, who joins sister Paige, 2. Kevin joined Lincoln Surgical Associates; they live in Belleville, Ill.
- **Kevin Donaldson '95** finished graduate school at Indiana Univ. in 2002, then worked for an online travel site in NYC, then took a job with Travelocity.com in Dallas
- **Jon Haufe '96** now works for Case Design and Remodel. He and wife Susan (Banzer, TCU Theta '97) live in Seattle.
- **Tom Rose '96** wed Shelley Jordan (TCU Alpha Chi '97) in Oct 2003 in Hawaii. They live in San Francisco.
- **Mike McCown '97** and wife Heather (Richardson, TCU Kappa '01) announced the birth of daughter Lauren, who joins big sister Cortlin.
- **John Kiehle '98** and his wife Amanda (White, TCU DG '99) plan to move back to the DFW area this summer
- **Travis English '98** wed Liz Hendrickson (TCU Pi Phi '98) last July. They live in Ft Worth.
- **Bobby Mullins '99** wed Katie Hedges (TCU Pi Phi '01) last July. They live in Houston.
- **Will Huffman '99** and his wife Janelle are expecting their first child in June
- **Kenny Stansberger '00** and his wife Amanda (Braaten, TCU ZTA '00) are expecting their first child in June
- **Carlin Williams '01** is now safely home in North Carolina after serving in both Afghanistan and Iraq
- **Zach Klemo '02** moved to St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands and works aboard a 55-ft sailing catamaran



GRADUATE SPOTLIGHT

Carlin Williams '01



Carlin was born in Cincinnati in 1978. His family moved to Kansas two years later when his father took a job with Lee Jeans. Carlin then grew up in Topeka and Overland Park, KS. He has an older brother and sister, both of whom graduated from Kansas schools. At Washburn Rural High School, Carlin was involved in intramurals, debate, student government, and was a National Merit finalist.

TCU was the only school Carlin seriously considered. He liked the campus, the size was perfect, he liked the programs and student activities, and thought the Greek system had a good mix. Carlin went through Rush because he thought it was an important part of the college experience - it was "a good way to meet a lot of cool people and have a blast." He chose FIJI because he thought he would have the most fun there and saw an "eclectic group of actives." Carl Christensen ('00) was instrumental in Carlin's decision to go FIJI. As an active, Carlin served as Corresponding Secretary and was the FIJI delegate in the TCU Student House of Representatives. One memory Carlin has from his undergrad days is "getting creative in gathering materials" for the Islander hut outside the House's front doors. It was a three-person-tall structure but was condemned by TCU for safety concerns.

Carlin was a Criminal Justice major and Speech Communications minor. Outside FIJI, Carlin participated in Army ROTC, student government, Frog Camp, Greek 101, and intramural sports. Outside TCU, he had a computer development company that set up computer networks and automation for law firms.

After graduation, Carlin was commissioned as 2nd Lt. in the Army and attended Airborne and Ranger school. He was in Afghanistan in 2002 and 2004 and in Iraq in 2003-04, specifically in Fallujah. Carlin sustained cuts and permanent inner ear damage when his truck was struck by a roadside bomb. Carlin feels he played a role in influencing the world for the better.

Carlin married Letha Young (TCU '02) 20 days before he left for Afghanistan in 2002. He's currently at Fort Winterwood in North Carolina taking courses in military engineering and masters courses in public administration. He plans to stay in the Army another two years, then look for a job in the DFW area.

Since college, Carlin has learned that "you never know the situations you're going to be placed in and how you'll react to those. It's important to learn about yourself and what you're capable of doing."

LOST BROTHERS

**Kerry Huffman '83 Scott Jenkins '86 Walter Miller '87
Mark Gustafson '87 Philip Strange '88 Tony Yardley '88
Eric Holmes '89 Chris Sorenson '89 Spencer Murchinson
'90 Bo De Arana '91 Peter McKechnie '91 Rick Schofman
'91 Brian George '92 Scott Newman '94 John Nix '94
Chris Schulz '95 Ken Stillwagon '99**

Know where one/some are? Contact Travis English '98 (contact info - page 5) or Rich Rogers '92 (admin@tcufiji.org).

Chapter News!

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Tau Chi has made exceptional leaps since the beginning of the fall semester. Our completely self-administered Chapter Room reincarnation sparked a sense of pride and enthusiasm amongst active brothers, which infectious permeated into the solid 19-man pledge class. During TCU's Frog Family Weekend, Phi Gam hosted more than 150 parents, family members and alums into the Chapter, all of whom were well received and duly impressed with our efforts to re-paint, re-floor and generally revamp the face of the Chapter Room. Consequently, we received a record number of donations. Thank you to all who were able to donate or attend. To all others, we hope to see you soon.

The new Cabinet gives Tau Chi an unprecedented level of experience in leadership positions. Both the Treasurer and Recording Secretary served on last year's Cabinet as well. With their experience, the help of previous Cabinet members, and Purple Legionnaire Travis English, we have established four Chapter goals for the upcoming year.

Primarily, we want to encourage scholarship. This is our first purpose as college students. Last year we ranked 2nd in active grades with a cumulative GPA of over 3.00 and we would like to see that become a trend. Pledge class study hall hours have been implemented, as well as mentoring options.

Emphasis on Phi Gam ritual and tradition is our second goal. As involvement in a Greek organization has become more socially condemnable this year, we are placing an emphasis on our founding principles, so as to remind us all that the true purpose of a fraternity is to create an atmosphere of support.

Retention of actives is our third goal, and perhaps the most crucial for the future of the Chapter. This is a project that has to start with the pledges. Positive pledge/active activities are now geared to instilling a sense of loyalty and brotherhood among freshman. First year involvement in Chapter functions such as philanthropies, social planning, intramurals and Inter Fraternity Council will hopefully give every incoming Brother the opportunity to make a tangible contribution to the Chapter, and in turn, remain active for the duration of his career at TCU.

Gaining and maintaining positive public relations on campus and in the surrounding community is the final goal. Many of our actives, as individuals, are completing notable accomplishments everyday. Furthermore, the Chapter is honored with awards and championships in on-campus events every year. These are all accomplishments that need to be publicized around TCU. The Corresponding Secretary will head up the public relations effort. We have also created a new position of Awards Chairman, who is responsible for relaying any campus award opportunities to eligible Brothers. This improves the face of the Chapter, as well as the morale of many of the active Brothers. All of these accomplishments will be passed along to parents and graduates alike.

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COMMITTEES

Rush— Summer '04 included activity in Houston (going to Astros games) and a river trip. Fall Rush brought in 19 pledges, with fifteen of those initiating this semester. Spring Rush brought five more pledges to join three Fall holdovers.

Social— Fall '04 saw Victory (a semi-formal), mixers, and the Black Diamond Formal. This spring, Casino Night, the 4th Annual Yellow T-Shirt party, a pre-spring break super-mixer (with Tri-Delts, DGs, and Lambda Chis), Islander, and a Dead Daze party are planned.

Homecoming '04—FIJI was paired with ADPi. The float was titled "Wash the (Houston) Cougars" and was two people tall!

Scholarship—Spring '04 saw Tau Chi get a 3.017 GPA, good enough for fourth on the Row and third among initiated Greeks. Four FIJIs posted 4.0s! Fall '04 had actives getting a 2.94 and pledges a 2.67, for a 2.86 overall. Many had 3.0s and 3.5s and are applying for FIJI scholarships.

Philanthropy—participated in Up Til Dawn, benefiting St. Jude's Hospital. FIJI raised the most money and had most participation of all TCU fraternities.

FIJI HQ—A visiting Field Sec. has encouraged the Chapter to apply for the Condon Cup award, recognizing the most improved FIJI chapter!

Pledgeship—Tau Chi is working on an 80% retention/Initiation rate, focusing on grades, brotherhood, and secrecy.

Effective implementation of these four essential but very achievable goals will steer Tau Chi in a positive direction this year. But more importantly, if the active Chapter embraces these goals as standards, we will have raised the bar and created a stronger Chapter for years to come.

As the spring semester flies by, I as well as the Cabinet are quite pleased with the progress made. Though there is always room for more improvement, I think our Cabinet, with Travis English's help has made a good start towards achieving these goals. Tau Chi and the national office were both pleased and impressed with our 80% initiation rate of fall pledges. These 15 young men achieved a GPA of 2.85, and continue to show their FIJI fervor in philanthropy and even the weekly meetings. This class holds very promising young leaders who I hope will assume leadership positions in the next election. Our new Rush Chairman, Eric Cannon, has kept this enthusiasm going by recruiting another five pledges for the spring semester as well.

Socially, we are enjoying the freedom of a spring without any restrictions or sanctions, and we are putting that freedom to great use. Tau Chi's spring calendar is loaded with philanthropy and social events. In addition to the annual Pig Dinner (where we sincerely hope to see many of you), we will again host a Casino Night. However, this year the proceeds will likely go to our new national philanthropy, Red Cross Association. We also look forward to a "Dead Days" end of the year party with the Sigma Chi Fraternity.

Respectfully Submitted,
Drew Corbett '06

Chapter News!

CHAPTER ROOM REMODEL

Last summer, Tau Chi remodeled the Chapter Room. There was a big need for it, for several reasons: there was a glaring discrepancy between the FIJI Chapter Room and those of other fraternities, actives had less motivation to remain living in the House longer, and the meeting area it provided had almost become unacceptable.

Fortunately, the funds were raised to pull off a remodeling. The Texas Hold 'Em Poker Tournament in the spring of 2004 and contributions from the Chapter, alumni (record amount), and parents saved the day. A plaque was mounted outside the doors thanking those who gave \$100 or more.



FIJI HQ and TCU NEWS

- Johnny Carson (Nebraska '49), 79, longtime host of the *Tonight Show*, died of emphysema last January
- Morgan Spurlock (NYU '93) directed and starred in the Oscar-nominated documentary *Super Size Me*, about the effects of an all-fast-food diet. He had a seven percent body-fat increase in 30 days. Phi Gamma Delta "made me a better man," he said.
- TCU will build an apartment complex (artist's rendition below) located along Berry Street where Perotti's Pizza was located (Perotti's has been demolished for now but will be located in the building)



KEY CONTACTS

President– Drew Corbett '06, 817-271-3066,
a.s.corbett@tcu.edu
Purple Legionnaire–Travis English '98,
817-801-7676,
travis.english@duncan-holdings.com



UNDERGRADUATE SPOTLIGHT



Bobby Silber '06

Bobby Silber was born in Richardson, Texas, in 1984 and grew up there. He attended Berkner High School and was involved in club baseball, football as a sophomore, and National Honor Society. His father bought one of those large inflatable castles while Bobby was in high school so he could make a little money renting them out. Bobby continued that business into college.

Bobby applied to only two schools: TCU and SMU. He wanted to go to a smaller school and stay close to home since his entire family was in the DFW Metroplex. He chose TCU because he liked its campus more.

He went through Formal Rush as a freshman, but his decision had virtually already been made. He had friends from high school who had gone FIJI, had gone to FIJI Summer Rush events, and had been extended a verbal bid even before school started. He liked the diversity FIJI offered.

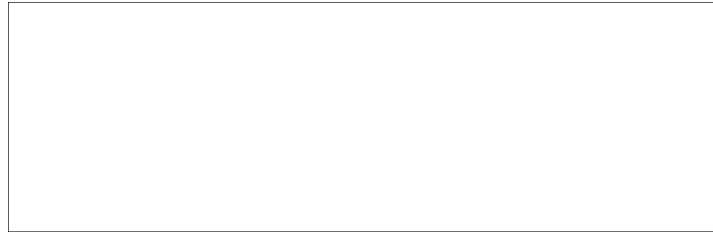
Bobby has contributed to the Fraternity as Treasurer and in a Scholarship committee capacity. He is involved in intramurals on the basketball and softball teams and spends time in the gym. On campus, he is involved in the Golden Key, an honor society; serves on the board of the Collegiate Entrepreneurship Organization (CEO) Club; and is in the American Marketing Association.

He is a Marketing and Entrepreneurial Management major, with a Spanish minor. He had put his Spanish to use last summer with a six-week trip to Barcelona, Spain, and plans for another three-week trip to Europe this summer.

Bobby's plans for post-graduation are up in the air at this point. He is considering graduate school, but perhaps not immediately. Eventually, he would like to own his own business.

One thing Bobby has noticed in his time in college is that "everything is about competition;" whether it's getting into college or Rush or otherwise.

The Purple Link
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