

“...not for college days alone.”

# PURPLE LINK

Tau Chi Chapter of Phi Gamma Delta at TCU

January 2000

*The Fraternity of  
Phi Gamma Delta  
Tau Chi Chapter*

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In case you hadn't heard, there is a website for Tau Chi graduates and the undergraduate chapter. They're both located at the address above (obviously). In August 1996, Carl Hansen '90 set up the graduate page using the space his internet provider supplied. About a year ago, he registered the easier-to-remember domain name [tcufiji.org](http://www.tcufiji.org). The site has chapter news, a guestbook, an email list (you must email your address to Carl for him to post it; not merely sign the guestbook), and pictures that graduates have sent in. The undergraduate site was added in early 1999.

The website really caught fire in 1997 with the Casino Night versus concert issue (see below). Since then, the number of hits and email addresses added have skyrocketed. Go check it out, bookmark it, and email a Brother you've lost contact with!

## Upcoming Events

**Pig Dinner-Casino  
Night**  
April 1, 2000

**Tau Chi  
20th Anniversary-  
Homecoming**  
November 2000

## Casino Night Returns!

Tau Chi's Casino Night party is returning this spring. For those who are unfamiliar, Casino Night was an annual philanthropic casino party for the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) that ran from about 1985 to 1997. Sororities were invited each year, giving everyone a chance to dress up and look good. At the end of the night, chips "won" by gambling were cashed in for raffle tickets to win prizes the chapter had collected.

Early in the 1997-98 school year, the chapter decided instead to have a Robert Earl Keen concert sponsored by Copenhagen. Although the concert was a success, many graduates voiced their concern over the broken tradition of Casino Night and the graduate involvement it supported.

This spring, Tau Chi is bringing back Casino Night. It will take place at the Fort Worth Club on April 1, 2000 along with Pig Dinner. Details and a flyer will follow this "Purple Link" within the next two weeks. Look forward to this night led by Purple Legionnaire Jeff Owings '94, Travis English '98, and the undergraduate Casino Night committee led by Carl Christensen '00. It will be a very fun and exciting evening!

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

#### GRADUATE NEWS

BCA  
WHAT CAN YOU DO?  
LOST BROTHERS  
GRAD. UPDATE 9

#### CHAPTER NEWS

PRESIDENT'S LETTER  
COMMITTEES  
RECENT HOUSE  
IMPROVEMENTS  
NATIONALS  
INSERT

## GRADUATE NEWS!

### BCA

We all know that Tau Chi has never enjoyed much graduate support. From time to time, random graduates find the time and/or resources to help out for a few months. Or maybe a graduate committee is formed and usually struggles along for perhaps a year before it dies too. However, it is understandable with Brothers starting families, establishing careers, or moving away; the Fraternity just is not as high a priority anymore.

The latest attempt at a Board of Chapter Advisors (BCA) is proving effective and involved in finally establishing that support since its creation at the beginning of 1999. It was started by our Section Chief Bill Kramer (Gettysburg '78), who advises chapters in our section of north Texas and Oklahoma. (He lives in Fort Worth and has been a valued advisor to Tau Chi.) The BCA has so far mainly attracted recent graduates who still have a good take on how the chapter functions now. Of course, this should not discourage older graduates in the area from contributing.

The main function of the BCA is *not* to run the chapter; it is for advisement. Each of the half dozen to dozen core members are assigned to a Cabinet member and committee. There have been innovative strides made toward improving Brothers' and pledges' grades; revamping pledge education to focus on more positives, brotherhood, and getting their Big Brothers involved again; resurrecting Casino Night; updating the graduate directory; ... basically covering all the vital committees with any help possible.

If you would like to contribute in ANY way, see the "How Can I Help?" article

## How Can I Help?

With the recent increased attempts at contacting people, it's been discovered that at least a handful of graduates are wondering how they can help. Obviously, there is a lot more that DFW-area (or even just north Texas) guys can do. If you live in the area, any help would be appreciated. It could be finding a place for theme parties, helping make intramural shirts, making a simple donation, contacting other guys for updates and info, etc. There are potentially dozens of ways to get involved.

If you are out of the area, that is fine too. Again, there are fewer and fewer options the further you are from TCU, but you could still help perhaps with rush. Maybe a co-worker's or colleague's son is going to TCU; you could let us know about him. Another option is, again, a simple donation to help with rush, general materials, and House improvements, for example.

The above suggestions are just some of the ways to help Tau Chi. Whether you would like to get involved in the BCA or periodically lending a hand, anything would be great. If you are interested or have other suggestions, contact the chapter's Graduate Relations chariman Mike Alcantar '00 (817.370.1239 or londonbud99@hotmail.com) or PL Jeff Owings (817.469.6996 or owingsji@ix.netcom.com)

## TCU Homecoming 2000 and 20th Anniversary of Tau Chi's Chartering

Next fall will be the Twentieth Anniversary of our chartering and the chapter plans to include that weekend in its celebration. Since TCU has changed Homecoming dates in the past, we cannot tell you exactly which weekend it will be. So, just keep it in mind and refer to the website for developments regarding dates and events.

## TCU Homecoming 1999

Tau Chi was paired with Pi Beta Phi (seriously the hottest sorority right now) for Homecoming this past November. The theme was "Broadway Lights and Horned Frog Nights" (whatever that means). Some of the competitions were a building decoration (outside of the Bass Building), Frog Follies (we got "Best Props"), a basket drive for a homeless shelter, and a volleyball tournament (we placed third). Our float had a West Side Story feel to it with Superfrog as a gangster. Fiji-Pi Phi placed third overall. The football team beat Tulsa on that Saturday.

For the graduates themselves, the chapter had its traditional pre-game House cookout and a tailgate party in the stadium's west lot. (Other graduates had another tailgate party elsewhere in the parking lot too.) Just as the game was ending and the second of two "aluminum beverage containers" was being finished, the evil Texas Alcohol and Beverage Commission (TABC) confiscated the containers and handed out the normal handful of Minor in Possessions.

# GRADUATE NEWS!

## Updates

- Carl Hansen '90 is getting married on Memorial Day 2000 in Indianapolis, then everyone's going to the Indy 500.
- Cory McLeod '89 raced in the SCCA Valvoline Run-Out at Mid-Ohio Sportscar Course in October 1999.
- Ron Denheyer '91 and his wife Andrea (TCU '91) gave birth to Jonathan Daniel on June 21, 1999. The family lives in Dallas.
- Brian Zempel '87 and his wife Jill gave birth to Chloe Elizabeth on August 9, 1999. They already have a 5-year-old girl named Kelsey. They live in Jacksonville, Florida.
- Cason Lane '92 is the new manager of corporate communications at Jack in the Box Inc. in San Diego.
- Jamey Secrest '94 recently graduated from Baylor Law and passed the Bar. He works for Farrell & Secrest, L.L.P. in Temple, TX, and lives there with his wife Jana and 1-year-old son Preston.
- Jon Haufe '96 wed Susan Banzer (TCU '97) at the Robert Carr Chapel at TCU in November 1999.
- Andrew Wise '95 got engaged to Andrea Baxter (TCU '00). An August 2000 wedding is planned.
- Dan Doremus '98 is in graduate school at Ohio State.
- Chad Carter '93 graduated from law school in 1997, got married, passed the Bar, joined the Air Force and is now a JAG.
- Glenn Steelman '88 and his wife are expecting another child in May 2000. The Steelmans have two sons, Blake (4) and Davis (2).
- Kevin Barnett '95 and his wife Rebecca (TCU '96) have decided to stay in Springfield, IL, for 5 more years while Kevin continues his General Surgery Residency.
- David Cearley '94 is starting his surgical residency and hopes to start training in orthopedic surgery next year.
- Bodie Freeman '95 is the new spirit squad supervisor at UNL and he also works in the marketing department.
- Hal L. Roach, Jr. '87 started his own law practice last year specializing in employment litigation.
- Andrew Deutsch '94 is working in advertising and will be acting in a TV pilot to be filmed in March. He is also producing a play to be run in Austin in early 2000.
- David Nielsen '85 is engaged to be married June 3, 2000, to Colleen Phelan in Oak Brook, IL.
- Jim Mytinger '83 lives in Mission Hills, KS, with his wife Laura (TCU '84) and their children Pauline, Jon, Max, and Mollie. Jim also was made partner in his trading firm.
- Jason Riddle '91 and his wife Katie are expecting their second child in December 1999. The Riddles have one child, Lexi.
- Ron White '85 and his wife Kimberly had a baby, Brendan, born September 30, 1998. The Whites have two

other children, Kelli (6) and Ryan (4). Ron was also recently promoted to Production Manager over Printed Circuit Board Manufacturing at Abbott Laboratories in Bedford, TX.

- Daniel Dibble '92 finished his MBA in August 1999 from Texas A&M - Corpus Christi.
- Jeff Austin '84 and his wife Lisa had twins Bennett Jeffrey and Genevieve Elizabeth on December 10, 1998, to join big sister Olivia Catherine Ann. Jeff is a partner in the law firm of Sanders Conkright & Warren, LLP, practicing insurance defense litigation in Kansas and Missouri.
- Tom Garrity '86 reports his business is strong and growing. In addition to coordinating PR for an around the world balloon flight attempt, they also represent a variety of corporations and associations. He lives in Albuquerque, NM with his wife Jackie and their children, Emily (4) and Casey (2).
- Jack Doerr '96 and wife Jennifer (TCU '97) gave birth to daughter Riley Kendall, born October 5, 1999. They live in Spring, TX.

## Purple Legionnaire Report Jeff Owings '94

I am proud to report that the BCA is finally organized and producing on the rise. The BCA has selected Andrew Wise '95 as our chairman of the board for this year. We have placed Pig Dinner and Casino Night at the top of our agenda. By having these two events at the Fort Worth Club, we have brought back the degree of high society and grace which has been the hallmark of Casino Night for years. Now, we need you. The graduate board is only as strong as the graduate base and we are going to need a lot more involvement from graduates starting with this year's Pig Dinner. I know that many of you are probably asking yourselves why you really need to come this year, and the answer is simple. You need to see for yourself how far the chapter has come along. The BCA and I can tell you everything that is going on, but all of you deserve to see for yourselves the impressive strides we have taken in the areas of graduate relations. In addition, it is always fun to see old faces and swap old stories.

The BCA is also beginning a chapter development program from resume construction, to career days, to alcohol awareness, and to study skill seminars. This is where graduate support is crucial. If we draw from even a portion of our graduate pool, we could have a dramatic impact. With our new cabinet and BCA, the chapter is on the threshold of achieving great things this year. It is up to all of us to help and make it a success for Tau Chi.

### Lost Brothers

Roy Russell '82	Peter McKechnie '91
Robert Beatty '84	Ernest Williams '91
Scott Jenkins '86	- Chris Walton '91
Jon Brookbank '86	Brian George '92
Walter Miller '87	Jeff Cunningham '93
Scott Falk '88	Chris Hightower '94
Anthony Yardley '88	Jason Weaver '95
Chris Sorenson '89	Sean Kennally '96

## Chapter News!

### President's Letter Jeff Anderson '01

Fall 1999 was a good semester for Tau Chi. Rush was very successful and we pledged 28 guys, the largest on the row. We lost four pledges during the semester but are pleased with the 24 remaining. The graduate board consists of about eight regular attending members and is chaired by Andrew Wise. PL Jeff Owings has done an exceptional job guiding the chapter and organizing the BCA. A new Cabinet took over at the beginning of November and certain committee chairs were reevaluated. The chapter is doing pretty well overall, but there is always room for improvement. Cabinet and I are addressing apathy in the chapter to improve our cohesiveness and involvement. I hope to increase Brothers' participation in philanthropy and public service activities to get Tau Chi's name around campus and in the community. The chapter is moving in a positive direction but needs constant support from graduates as well as actives. I am confident that in the next year Tau Chi will improve in weaker areas. I am excited about the next year and hope to keep the chapter moving in the proper direction.

### Scholarship Report Darren Thiesfeld '02

The current scholarship program in the chapter is almost non-existent. I think that a lack of incentive is one of the huge factors that needs to be addressed when it comes to Brothers' and pledges' grades. One thing I would like to do is to bring back the Big/Little competition, whereby a pledge and his Big Brother compete against the other Big/Littles for the highest grades. First place (and maybe second and third) would win money or a dues discount. Another idea is to award money to those with the highest grades in each class. Also, along with the Snowy White Owl award, money for those over a 3.0 GPA.

Overall, I am dedicated to rewarding any Brother who makes good grades. I feel money is the best incentive. And rewarding those who do well will increase the morale of the chapter. Each Fiji will have something to strive for and the ultimate goal will be to improve the GPA of the chapter.

## House Renovations and Improvements

The summer of 1999 brought perhaps the biggest physical changes to the House. TCU decided to update the Greek area and did the following. In the back, the steps were removed and a huge cement patio was poured along the length of the building. In the front, new landscaping was put in.

Inside, all the rooms were carpeted, the permanent counters in each room were removed in favor of moveable furniture, and all old lofts were replaced with new bunk beds. Internet connections were updated. The third floor hallway was shortened at the Phi Kap end but lengthened on the second floor just below. Some rooms were actually removed or radically altered at the same end because of these changes; they were also renumbered.

Downstairs, the GRA's room became the President's room with its own bathroom. (The GRA's residence is now between the two fraternity buildings.) The downstairs kitchen and bathroom were slightly altered.

The chapter room has had major changes and improvements in the last few years. The phone room has a conference table and black leather office chairs for committee meetings or studying. (People actually use it for studying sometimes!) The carpet is a nice, dark green color. The pool table area (with the same table we have had for years) has a new stained-glass Budweiser lamp with "Phi Gamma Delta" on its side, the floor is a hard beige-colored surface with the Fraternity letters in it, and a print of Fiji athletes hangs on the wall, among other things.

Perhaps the most noticeable of the chapter room's additions are the large wooden bookcases which hold the chapter's trophies and Gamma. There is also a new DVD player, a surround speaker system, and a new Sharp ceiling-mounted projector to complement the big screen TV.

The undergraduates believe the chapter room and House looks better than it has since at least 1990. (Because no one older than that has commented otherwise!) Still, Tau Chi continues to raise money for improvements. Two priorities are new furniture and more folding chairs for meetings.

### Greek Bowl Eric King '02

Tau Chi is proud to announce our second annual Greek Bowl that will take place in the spring of 2000. All ten sororities will compete once again in a "powder puff" flag football tournament. Three-year-old Sigma Kappa sorority won last year. Each sorority will enter one team, which will be coached by two of our Brothers. The teams will compete in a single elimination tournament and the winners will be invited to a mixer with the Fijis. All proceeds will go to MDA.

## Chapter News!

### Intramural Report Eric King '02

Phi Gam athletics have been in full force since the beginning of the school year. In the early fall, we entered three teams into the intramural volleyball league which lasted two months and our top two teams entered the tournament with high hopes. They made the rest of the chapter proud by advancing to the later rounds. TCU intramurals held another volleyball tournament in early November, which took place during Homecoming week, and consisted of coed teams. The Brothers teamed up with Pi Beta Phi and did an awesome job by advancing to the semifinals of the tournament before falling to the eventual champions.

In early October the annual flag football league at TCU began and two intramural teams represented our chapter. Our "A" team finished the league with a record of 3-1 and the "B" team held their own on the gridiron. Other tournaments were played last semester and we were proud to advance into the semifinals of the Indoor Soccer tournament. Many of our members decided to enter in the "Fall Breakaway", a 5K race held by Kappa Alpha Theta to help benefit the abused and neglected children charity of Fort Worth. All of us are looking forward towards the spring for intramurals with high aspirations for the intramural basketball league and softball tournament.

### FIJI Nationals

Nationals' Executive Director Bill Martin (Mississippi State '75) stepped down on September 1, 1999. He was replaced by Benjamin Robinson (Hampden-Sydney '86).

Professional golfer and Fiji Payne Stewart (SMU '79) died in a plane crash in South Dakota. He won the 1989 PGA Championship and U.S. Opens in 1991 and '99. We offer our prayers for him and his family.

Effective July 1, 2000, Fiji houses will be going alcohol-free. But given TCU's alcohol policies, things will not change much for Tau Chi.

#### The Purple Link

Editors: Mike Alcantar '00, Mike Indergard '98

Graduate Relations: Mike Alcantar

Purple Legionnaire: Jeff Owings '94

BCA President: Andrew Wise '95

## Social Report

Some of the party themes in the past few years have been Gilligan's Island, Working Man's Blues (dress like a blue collar worker), Glory Days (high school), Dazed and Confused 1 and 2 ('70s), and even one at a Dallas club, just to name a few. This past fall the guys had "Occupational Hazards" with Alpha Chi Omega.

LAGNAF, started in the fall of '92 at which people dress for hunting/fishing, continues each fall but has been recently regulated because of TABC. The free-for-all with beer everywhere, Fiji Punch, and no police supervision has been replaced with a fairly strict cash bar. There is still styrofoam confetti everywhere to resemble snow, as well as a constructed pond into which many people are thrown or fall from drunkenness! Every year, girls say its the best party they have ever been to.

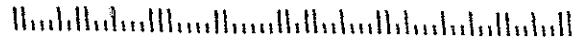
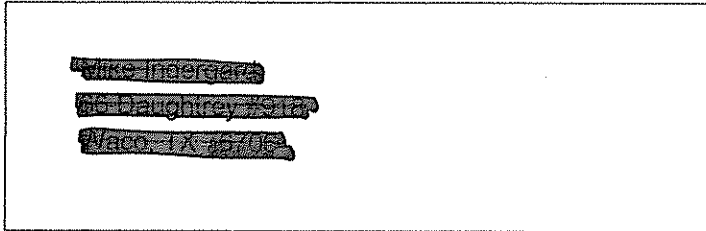
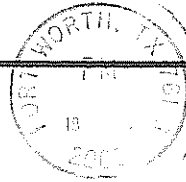
The chapter had a formal in December '98 for the first time since '93 in a downtown Fort Worth hotel. (From '93 to '98, Tau Chi thought it was too expensive to have one.) There was also a Victory party this past fall with the Thetas, our first victory since 1992. Some were pleased to report no Phi Gams in attendance wore Texas Tuxedos! After '92, some thought Victory parties with sororities, with their strict cash bar rules for parties, were not worth it. In the late '90s, now since even fraternities are gravitating towards a similar policy, the chapter considered Victory a worthwhile party again. (For you "traditionalists", people still pre-party and perhaps even bring flasks.)

Of course, the biggest party of the year is Islander. Week-long activities still take place, whether it is a day-into-night party at an off-campus house or a Thursday night crush mixer, people celebrate the week. For you older graduates, Purple Up stopped around '90 or '91 when sororities supposedly said "enough" to drunk Fijis leaving paint all over their houses! The guys still wear the grass skirts though. Probably the biggest crime against Islander was when TCU said "no more hut" outside the front of the House (a big bamboo "Fiji Islander" sign replaced it) after 1998. That year's hut was three storeys tall with couches on each level. There was also a waterfall out of the bathroom window into the traditional diamond-shaped pond. Afterwards, TCU said it was a fire hazard and an injury liability.

The weekend Islander party itself has not been held at Eagle Mountain Lake since 1995. For the next two years, it was at Tanglewood - a Lake Texoma resort with condos, a pool, hot tubs, sand volleyball, jet skis, and a two-hour pontoon boat ride onto the lake. The last two years it's been at Tropical Hide-away, a similar resort on Lake LBJ near Austin.

Cabinet: Pres Jeff Anderson '01 (jwanderson@delta.is.tcu.edu), Tres Ryan Bourgeois '02, Rec Sec Zach Klemo '02, Corr Sec Ryan Andersen '01, Historian Kenny Stansberger '00

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# The New and Improved Link!

## Check it out!

Inside: Website, Casino Night, Graduate News, Chapter News, and more!