

PURPLE LINK

Tau Chi Chapter of Phi Gamma Delta at TCU

March 2003

TCU Box 296878
Fort Worth, Texas
76129

Chapter Room
Phone #
817.257.7907

www.tcufiji.org

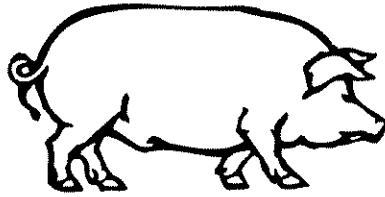
Upcoming Events

**Casino Night—
Pig Dinner**
April 5

Islander
April 12

Final Exams
May 5-9

Pig Dinner - Casino Night April 5, 2003



City Club in Fort Worth
City Center, Tower II
(Bass Building closest to AMC Palace Movie Theater)

Happy Hour at 6pm
Pig Dinner at 7pm
Casino Night at 9pm



Those invited:
Tau Chi graduates
DFW-area FIJI alumni
TCU sororities



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INSERT

Last year, Tau Chi raised over \$3,500 for MDA and presented the check on NBC during the MDA Labor Day telethon, and that we hope to present a larger check on television this year!

To all alumni planning to attend the event, please contact Travis English ('98) at 817.801.7676 or travis.english@duncan-holdings.com

GRADUATE NEWS!

Phi Gamma Delta Educational Foundation

The Tau Chi Chapter of Phi Gamma Delta has come a long way in its 23 years. In 1980, a small colony received its charter and started an organization that today has a solid base of undergraduate members, and a graduate membership of over 350 men. For many years, Tau Chi has operated without a significant graduate influence, besides that provided by the Section Chief and an occasional guardian angel. In the recent years, the formation of the Board of Chapter Advisors (BCA) along with an involved Purple Legionnaire has allowed the Chapter to make further strides towards excellence. Up until now, the BCA has been comprised of younger alumni, who are able to donate their time and advice, but are not able to make the monetary contributions that can significantly make a difference. That is where the graduate membership can help.

The Phi Gamma Delta Educational Foundation has constructed two specific accounts for the Tau Chi Chapter; the Tau Chi Scholarship Account and the Chapter House Endowment Fund (CHEF).

Donations to the Scholarship account will go towards building an endowment that will benefit Tau Chi members through scholarships, tutoring, and learning facility improvements within the Chapter House. Once the account has reached a \$25,000 balance, the interest from the endowment can be used each year for these benefits. The BCA will designate how the proceeds will be used each year with input from the undergraduate Cabinet, Purple Legionnaire, Section Chief, and alumni. The more the account grows, the more funds can be used to grant scholarships to members, pay for tutors, improve study facilities and more. Our goal is to reach the \$25,000 target by Homecoming of 2003. All donations to this fund are tax deductible.

The CHEF fund functions the same as the Scholarship account whereby interest from the account can be used for Chapter improvements. Donations to this fund are not tax deductible, but are still welcome.

We invite you to donate to either one of these funds, and challenge you to pledge \$10 for every year you have been out of school. You can send your donations directly to the Educational Foundation. Please be sure to designate on the check the donation is for Tau Chi Scholarship Account or Tau Chi CHEF fund. Please contact Travis English at 817.801.7676 or travis.english@duncan-holdings.com if you have any questions.

PHI GAMMA DELTA EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION
1201 Red Mile Road
P.O. Box 4599
Lexington, KY 40544-4599

Tarrant County FIJIs

Fiji Headquarters supplied us with their list of Tarrant County Fiji alums and for the first time we are mailing our Chapter newsletter, the *Purple Link*, to those graduates. We encourage all of you to get involved with the Chapter at TCU, whether it be through a financial contribution or time. Any input is greatly appreciated!

The most senior graduate on our list graduated from the University of Texas in 1931 and resides in Fort Worth. Based on the information supplied to us, there are 84 chapters represented in this area alone!!!

Those chapters are:

Arizona	Nebraska
Arkansas	New Mexico
Auburn	North Alabama
Baylor	Northwestern
Bucknell	Occidental
Case Western	Ohio State
Reserve	Ohio Wesleyan
Chicago	Oklahoma
Colgate	Oklahoma State
Colorado	Oregon
Columbia	Penn State
Cornell	Pennsylvania
Davidson	Pittsburgh
Depauw	Purdue
Emory	Rhode Island
Florida	Richmond
Florida State	Rose Hulman
Georgia	Sewanee
Georgia Tech	Southern Methodist
Gettysburg	Southwest Texas
Hanover	Syracuse
Idaho	Tennessee
Illinois	Tennessee Tech
Illinois Wesleyan	Texas
Indiana State	Texas - Arlington
Indiana	Texas - San Antonio
Iowa	Texas A&M
Iowa State	Texas Christian
Jacksonville	Texas Tech
Kansas	Tulane
Kansas State	Union
Kent State	Virginia
Kentucky	Virginia Polytechnic
Knox	Wabash
Lafayette	Washington
Louisiana State	Washington & Lee
Memphis	Washington State
Michigan	Westminster
MIT	William Jewell
Miami	Williams
Minnesota	Wittenberg
Missouri	Yale
Montana	

GRADUATE NEWS!

Jim Schorgl '84 and wife Katherine live in Kansas City with their three kids.

Paul Hains '87 reports that son Michael is in second grade and daughter Jessica has turned four.

Terry Lacy '88 and wife Martine announce the birth of Vivienne Ann-Marie on July 28 in Sugar Land, TX.

Jeff Cunningham '93, who lives in L.A., spent last summer in Pakistan shooting a *National Geographic* documentary about women attempting to climb K2 in the Himalayas.

Jeff Rutan '93 and wife Tracy (TCU '93) had a son, Jacob, on December 20. Jeff is an audit manager for KPMG and they live in Carrollton, TX.

Jeff Owings '94, and his wife, Leah, are expecting a daughter in May. They live in Arlington, Texas, and Jeff works for Enterprise.

Arnold Sebbas '94 and his wife, Jennifer, are expecting their first child. They live in Fishers, IN, where Arnold works for Verizon.

Eric Merriman '96 and wife Rebecca (TCU '97) had a boy, Robert, on July 2.

Tom Rose '96 will marry Shelly Jordan in October in Maui. They reside in San Francisco.

Braxton Goodrich '97 will wed Mary Bartley of VA on July 26 and they will live in Birmingham, AL.

Steve Schroeder '97 is working as a consultant in Los Angeles, and is earning his MBA at UCLA.

Chris Haller '98 married Meredyth Barr (TCU '99) on June 22 in Dallas. Chris works as vice president of Pinnacle Sciences, Inc. They live in Fort Worth.

Mike Indergard '98 and wife Laura (TCU '97) had a boy, Brooks, on September 23. They live in Waco.

John Kiehle '98 wed Amanda White (TCU '99) in L.A. in September. John works for Viacom and they live in L.A.

Carl Stansberger '98 will marry Erin Doyle on June 20th in Fort Worth, where they will live.

Will Huffman '99 wed Janelle Karch on June 29 in Plano, Texas, where they live. Will works for Benefit Mall in Dallas.

Ken Stillwagon '99 and Tina Vigil (TCU '99) were married August 3 in Louisville, CO. They live in Colorado.

Michael Alcantar '00 and Kaila Richards were married November 2, 2002 in Dallas, where they live. Mike works for Frost Bank's corporate office in Dallas.

Scott Bryan '00 has moved to Albuquerque, NM, and sells kitchen appliances to high end retailers.

Carl Christensen '00 will marry Sarah Nicholson in June.

Kenny Stansberger '00 was married to Amanda Braaten on July 13 in Houston. They live in Fort Worth, where Kenny works in sales for ADP Employer Services.

Winston Williams '00 will wed Jade Mullins (TCU '98) in Houston, on July 5. They live in Fort Worth where Winston operates his own business.

Carlin Williams '01 has been in Afghanistan for a few months as a platoon leader in the US Army.



Graduate Spotlight Doug Thompson ('84)



Doug Thompson was at TCU from 1980 to '84. He was born in Canada, grew up in L.A., and moved to Arlington, TX, where he graduated from Arlington H.S. He picked TCU because when Doug asked his mother where he should go, she said that! He pledged as a freshman and almost walked out of the FIJI House during Formal Rush but reconsidered and became part of the only Tau Chi pledge class to be pledged twice (Colony pledging and Chapter pledging when Tau Chi received its charter later that fall). At the time, there were only 25 actives to their pledge class of 23. Doug pledged FIJI to have an impact and to help write history and establish traditions. One tradition their class helped establish was getting the FIJI letters tattooed above the inside right ankle after Initiation. Doug served as an officer all four years of school: as a pledge class officer, Rush Chairman, Recording Secretary, and President. He was also on IFC because of his presidential role.

After graduation, Doug worked in Dallas for three years. He then started his own company, USA Graphics, for advertising specialties. He sold that company in 1992 and began working at the family business, Tandy/Leather Factory. (In fact, during college Doug and a few of the FIJIs worked there during summers.) Since Doug has been there, his family's business has quadrupled in sales and tripled in warehouses.

Doug met his wife, Annette, through another Tau Chi FIJI, Wade Gear ('86), at a party at Gear's house in Lewisville (between DFW and Denton). They married in 1993 and have two daughters, Meagan, 7, and Lauren, 4. Doug and Annette will celebrate their ten-year anniversary in the Cayman Islands.

Doug says he never regretted anything about college or fraternity life, as some do when reflecting on their study habits in school. He says if it hadn't been for his friends in college, he never would've made it through. He now has "discretionary income" to play with and feels many others his age are about at a similar point. He says now is the time for Brothers his age to return to TCU and Tau Chi.

dthompson@leatherfactory.com
h: 817-453-8583 c: 817-308-8747

Lost Brethren

Kerry Huffman '83 Scott Jenkins '86 Glenn Steelman '87
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 Bryan King '91
Peter McKechnie '91 Rick Schofman '91 Brian George '92
Scott Newman '94 John Nix '94 Chris Schulz '95 Bobby
Benziger '96 Andrew Meadows '99 Ken Stillwagon '99
Info? Contact Travis English at 817.801.7676 or
travis.english@duncan-holdings.com

Chapter News!

COMMITTEES

Social— Last spring's parties were Casino Night and Islander, the latter of which was at Cliff's Resort on Possum Kingdom Lake west of FW (it was cold and rainy so outdoor activities didn't happen). Last fall, we had LAGNAF and "Yellow T-Shirt Party," one of the best fall parties on the Row. This semester, we have already had "Matching Couples" theme party and are looking forward to Casino Night and Islander again. We will return to Cliff's Resort for Islander.

Intramurals—Tau Chi has a really strong basketball team and should be able to compete for the championship this year, continuing the success of last year, finishing high. We were runner-up in Delta Dunk Fest (3-on-3 basketball), the Tri-Delts' philanthropy. The soccer team lost in the championship game. Football is not so strong, but we really have a good time when we play!

Homecoming—We were paired with Kappa Kappa Gamma last fall. The float was designed to look like Frog Fountain, but didn't win any awards. Our skit made the cut for Frog Follies though, which is an honor.

Chapter News—Tau Chi made the *Phi Gamma Delta* Winter 2002 issue with their 34 initiates in the Fall 2001 semester ... We received a letter of commendation from TCU IFC's director of programming and scholarship. Involvement in an alcohol awareness class, allowing prospective students to visit the Chapter Room during Monday at TCU, second place at ADPi's blend-off for MADD, and second place in Kappa Sig's Kick in the Grass philanthropy earned two consecutive months as IFC's chapter of the month!

House—The Chapter Room has been redesigned (see President's Letter at right) and is almost completed. A new stereo system for the TV has also been purchased.

On-Campus—Relations with TCU Administration, specifically the advisor and Campus Life, are excellent. We are one of the only chapters that is willing to keep them informed on what is happening and that has really made them take a liking to us.

President's Letter

Brothers of Phi Gamma Delta,

I wanted to write to let you guys know how the Chapter is doing and the direction in which Tau Chi is heading. We have 52 actives currently and we have just recently initiated 15 pledges. We also hope to sign 10 new pledges in the spring. Every member is excited this semester and is enthused about the Chapter as a whole.

We have remodeled the Chapter Room, so come to the House and see what has been done! We still have a few odds and ends to cover before the remodeling is complete, but it is now starting to take shape.

We are also moving the study room from the Chapter Room to a second floor study room. To complete this, we need a few more items like a couple of tables and a copy machine. We also want to increase our test files so that every member has the chance to study from previous professors' exams.

Lastly, the Chapter did an excellent job last semester in the classrooms. We had an overall GPA, actives and pledges, of 2.8. The actives had a 2.97 and the pledges had a 2.78. Everyone is pleased and trying to do even better in the spring.

The new Cabinet is very excited right now about the upcoming semester. We all have great ideas and different thoughts that will help the Chapter continue to improve and grow.

As you are all aware, Pig Dinner and the annual Casino Night are around the corner. We hope that his event will be bigger than ever. We will be getting the word out much sooner and will be inviting all alumni of Tau Chi as well as all other area FIJI graduates and the TCU community. I hope to see all of you there!

Zerek Travis ('04)

Contacts

President— Zerek Travis, 817-257-4467,
z.s.travis@tcu.edu

Purple Legionnaire— Jeff Owings ('94),
817-469-6996, TauChiPL@aol.com

BCA Chair— Travis English, 817-926-6801,
travis.english@duncan-holdings.com

Letter from Archon Bill Kramer

Greetings, Tau Chi!

Though the current Archonate has been in place only six months, we have identified the key areas that must be emphasized to keep our Fraternity healthy and secure. First on the list is that we must increase our membership. That involves recruitment, retention and expansion. Our undergraduate membership peaked in the mid/late 1980's at about 8000 Brothers. Today we have approximately 6500 undergraduate Brothers. The good news is that we have begun to grow ever so slightly (1-3%) in the last couple of years. Tau Chi certainly helped with their strong fall pledge class. The Chapter must make that effort a habit and initiate all pledges every year. The average percentage of men who are fraternity members on college campuses is usually in the 8-15% range. That leaves us a large number of the "best and brightest" men who are staying away from fraternities and must be recruited, not rushed. Nationals is also doing its part in expansion. Just recently, we have reestablished ourselves at Arkansas, Michigan, Cal Berkley, Texas A&M and soon back to Ohio State. We will have the official chartering weekend for Texas A&M on the weekend of March 22nd. Join us if you can! I also encourage anyone to email me with questions or points you would like to discuss.

Fraternally,

Bill Kramer (Gettysburg '78)

william_kramer@ml.com

FIJI Nationals and TCU News

- FIJI Nationals Executive Director Bob Baney (Penn St '84) resigned in February '03. A search for a successor is underway.
- FIJI Internet access—\$18.48/mo, "no pop-up messages, 24/7 support and 800-number dial-in access." <https://phigan.safepages.com/signup.pl>
- TCU has a new chancellor in Dr. Victor Boschini
- A new University Rec. Center (inset)



Locate a Brother

Haven't talked to someone in awhile?

- www.tcufigi.org database: enter the Chapter page and the link is located at the bottom (site renovation underway)
- switchboard.com or infospace.com
- TCU Alumni Center at 817-257-7803



Undergraduate Spotlight Zerek Travis ('04)



Zerek Travis is the president of the Chapter. He was born and raised in the DFW area and went to Richardson High School where he was in the National Honor Society and played all the major sports, even getting recruited by smaller colleges to play football. His mom liked the letter "Z" and wanted something unique for her son, hence his interesting first name.

Zerek wanted to attend a college not too big and far enough away, though not *too* far, from home. He talked to the TCU baseball coach about walking on, but it didn't pan out. He waited a year to Rush a fraternity as a sophomore and was a FIJI lock before Formal Rush. He chose FIJI because he felt he "bonded and meshed" the best with them.

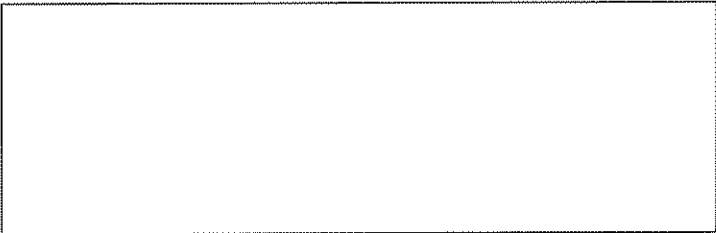
Zerek has been involved with Student Foundation (showing prospective students around) and was in the Pre-Health Honor Society. His major is Marketing but he is also taking the classes necessary for Pre-Med (he plans on doing the five-year plan). Before he was elected FIJI president, Zerek served the Fraternity as Risk Manager.

Zerek likes burning music and playing any sports, especially golf lately. Next spring he will study abroad in Australia. His short-term plans for the future are to get into med school but use the marketing degree to get into graduate school as a fall-back.

Two things that Zerek has noticed in the transition from high school to college life are the freedoms, such as no parents constantly hounding you to study, and having no money!

z.s.travis@tcu.edu, 817-257-4467

The Purple Link
Phi Gamma Delta
Tau Chi at TCU
TCU Box 296878
Fort Worth, TX 76129



**See What the Guys
Are Up To!**