



Upsilon Alpha Chapter of Phi Gamma Delta - Hall of Fame Induction Letter

Brothers,

Thank you so much for bestowing upon me the honor of induction into the Upsilon Alpha Hall of Fame. I wanted to be there in person to accept this recognition, but unfortunately the NBA "Scheduling Gods" conspired to keep me in Phoenix tonight by scheduling a nationally televised Phoenix Suns home game this same evening. Please accept my apologies for missing this special occasion. I would also like to congratulate the other Brothers being recognized today – I am humbled to be included in such an esteemed group of men.

Growing up in southern Arizona, I always had a strong connection to the University of Arizona. Even so, I originally planned to attend college out of state upon my graduation from Salpointe High School in Tucson. However, after visiting a few mid-western and northeastern campuses during the fall and winter months of 1988, I quickly realized the foolishness of trading 72-degree Februarys in Tucson for 32-degree Februarys in places like Columbus, Ohio or Syracuse, New York... Having come to my senses, I ultimately made the wise decision to stay in my hometown and enroll at the University of Arizona in the Fall of 1989.

The other wise decision I made that Fall was to participate in Fraternity Rush. As a "hometown" college student, I felt it was important expand my circle of friends beyond my high school buddies. While I spent some time at other fraternity houses during the process just to have some options, I knew immediately that FIJI was where I wanted to be. The clear focus on pursuing excellence, personal development and character appealed to me, and I saw FIJI as a place where I could grow as a person and a leader (and have a damn good time doing it)!

The truth of the motto "Not for College Days Alone" becomes more apparent to me with each passing year. I can say without exaggeration that the successes and accomplishments I have enjoyed in my career and life are directly linked to the friendships and skills developed during my time at FIJI. My first job out of UA School of Law came through one of my closest FIJI friends – a job that eventually led me to the Phoenix Suns. My first real experience leading an organization and people was serving as Chapter President in 1993. Skills learned in that role helped me succeed as a leader during my time in the US Navy, an experience which in turn helped me thrive early on in my professional carrier.

So, as you can see, FIJI was foundational for me as a young man. Because of the significant and enduring role FIJI played in my journey, I am confident that every new Brother walking through the front doors of 1801 East 1<sup>st</sup> Street can have an experience similar to mine. Like anything else in life, you normally get out what you put in. Make the best of your time at FIJI, and I guarantee it will enrich your life for years to come. I am certainly forever grateful for the opportunities FIJI helped create for me.

PERGE!

Jason C. Rowley, '94  
President & Chief Executive Officer  
Phoenix Suns – Phoenix Mercury – Footprint Center

