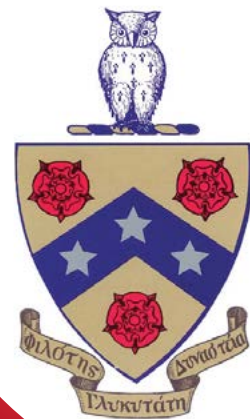


Upsilon Alpha of Phi Gamma Delta CAMPANILLA

UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA | WINTER 2024



FIJI

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Pig Dinner Highlights



We celebrated Upsilon Alpha's traditional **Frank Norris Pig Dinner** this year on Friday, October 18th, during Homecoming at the University of Arizona. Phi Gamma Delta's Norris Pig Dinner is the most widely observed annual tradition and the longest running chapter-based graduate event in the Greek world. The first Pig Dinner was held at Cal Berkeley in 1893 and has been celebrated yearly ever since. BCA President Jeff Derickson '72 served as Master of Ceremonies of this year's memorable event. Almost 200 members and guests were present at the Sands Club on the fifth floor overlooking the football stadium.

A no host bar greeted everyone as we gathered to meet up with old friends, reminisce, and enjoy the festivities surrounding the entire Homecoming weekend. Chapter President Tomiwa Oke '25 gave the **State of the Undergraduate Chapter Report** which highlighted achievements in scholarship, recruitment, philanthropy, community service, new member education, intramurals, social events, and graduate relations. He also enumerated the various awards the chapter earned during his year.

Gold Owl recipients were honored for 50 years of initiated service, awarded to brothers initiated in 1974. **Silver Owls** were awarded to those brothers who had 25 years of initiated service and were initiated in 1999. **Bronze Owls** were awarded to those initiated in 2014. Each received a pin and a certificate. Purple Legionnaire Trevor Henson '19 read off the names of those brothers who passed **Ad Astra** since the last Pig Dinner. The **Smith-Cheney Spirit Award** was presented to Alec Vendetti '25 for "inspiring all undergraduates to self-sacrifice for their brothers." The **Outstanding Pledge Award** was given to Walker Pierce '27 of the Xi pledge class.

Endowed scholarships awarded for superior academics and outstanding citizenship went to

deserving brothers. The **Lee Hanley Scholarship** was awarded to Dylan Murray and Yazin Hindosh. The newly endowed **Heidler Family Scholarship** was awarded to Ethan Parsons. Srikar

Mandava won the **Ben Ward Scholarship**, and the **Eugene Fuller Scholarship** went to Alec Vendetti. The **Roger Boll and Terry Howard Scholarship** was awarded to Nick Burns. This academic year Buzz Sands '63 donated almost \$140,000 to the undergrads as a reward for high GPAs. Callan Taylor '25 won the **Major General John A. Renner Memorial Scholarship** which was presented by his brother George Renner '67.

UABC President Jeff Mongan '83 gave the **State of the House Corporation Report**. He highlighted all of the improvements made to the facility and thanked those who were instrumental in making it happen. The class of **2024 Upsilon Alpha Hall of Fame** members were inducted, and each gave a short speech on their experiences as a Fiji. New inductees included Bill Wheeler '60, Jim Boice '71, Bob Nation '72, Curt Dunshee '82, and Deron Bocks '86.

The traditional "Bringing in the Pig" ceremony ensued with the Fall new initiates doing the honors. The oldest brother in attendance was Dick Nixon '59 who kissed the pig's snout. The youngest was Ryan Spencer '28 who had the pleasure of kissing the other end. Curt Dunshee '82 then presented a brief history of Frank Norris and gave a rousing rendition of the **Exile's Toast**. You don't want to be an 'exile' of this annual tradition, so plan on coming next year!



**UNDERGRADUATE
OFFICERS**

President
Sam Reish '26

Treasurer
Matt Maledon '27

Recording Secretary
Brogan Kelly '27

Corresponding Secretary
John Abbot '27

Historian
Connor Young '27

Purple Legionnaire
Trevor Henson '19

ADVISORS

President
Dr. Jeff Derickson '72

**Finance, Housing & Database
Management**
Vince San Angelo '62

Fraternity Law/Risk Mgmt.
Michael Aboud '67

Scholarship/Academics
Jack Tivalo '20

Graduate Relations
Michael Dupuy Jr. '05

Ritual
Douglas Finical '87

Public Relations
Brent Mallonee '03

Philanthropy
Dr. Jeffery Martin '73

New Member Education
Dalton Thompson '22

Built to Lead/Recruitment
Alex Gray '22

Foundation of Courage
Dan Kates '88

Purple Legionnaire
Trevor Henson '19

Webmaster/Social Media
Matt Noble, FMG Kappa Sigma

BUILDING CORPORATION

President
Jeff Mongan '83

Treasurer
Vince San Angelo '62

Secretary
J. Craig Barker '82

Directors
Jeffrey Patch '74
Michael Johnson '83
John Hink '84
Deron Bocks '86
Deron Webb '89

President's Report



Sam Reish '26

As we bring this semester to a close, I am proud to reflect on the incredible strides our chapter has made. This year, we welcomed 30 outstanding men into our brotherhood with the Omicron class, strengthening the bonds that define our chapter. Looking ahead, we prepare to broaden our horizons as 18 of our brothers embark on study abroad experiences in Barcelona and London. We know they will represent our chapter and fraternity values with distinction while creating unforgettable memories.

This semester, we wrapped up our Philanthropy Week, where we raised over \$15,000 for the Arizona Cancer Foundation for Children. Through events like percentage nights, car washes, and bubble soccer, our chapter and community came together to support a cause that truly matters. It was humbling to witness the dedication of our members and the outpouring of generosity from the community. Outside of these events, our brothers have continued to enhance our chapter's reputation across campus. Every member is actively involved in at least one club or program, with many holding leadership positions. From business and engineering organizations to medical and community-focused groups, our members are establishing a strong and positive presence in every sphere.

We are particularly proud of our academic and leadership accomplishments this semester. Four brothers earned spots in the prestigious Wall Street Scholars Program, a testament to the talent and drive within our house. Additionally, Srikar Mandava and Andrew Vanderah were elected to the IFC executive board, further solidifying our influence within the Greek community. Beyond these achievements, many brothers continue to excel by joining elite organizations like Delta Sigma Pi, the Greek Standards Board, Alpha Epsilon Delta, and the Eller Professional Sales Club.

This semester, our chapter was recognized at the IFC banquet for outstanding philanthropy and community service, an acknowledgment of our unwavering commitment to giving back. These awards reflect the incredible work our brothers put in every day. This summer, our chapter's dedication was further recognized on a national scale with several awards at the 176th Ekklesia in Chicago. While these achievements are remarkable, we are setting our sights even higher for next year, with a firm goal of bringing the Cheney Cup home!

Looking forward, we are eager to attend the Order of Omega awards, where we hope to once again showcase our excellence as a standout chapter. This winter, seven of our members, along with our Purple Legionnaire, will travel to St. Louis for the annual Leadership Academy, furthering our tradition of fostering strong leaders who will continue to propel our chapter forward.

Finally, I want to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude and excitement for the opportunity to serve as president of the Upsilon Alpha chapter. It is truly an honor to lead this group of men. This next year presents incredible opportunities to grow as a chapter, deepen our bonds, and leave a lasting impact on our community, campus, and beyond. I am committed to building on the strong foundation all the graduate brothers have built through their hard work and generosity. I look forward to all the great things this year will bring. I'm mighty proud to be a Fiji!

Fraternally,
Sam Reish
President, Upsilon Alpha Chapter
Perge!

Meet our Executive Board

We are proud to announce the new Executive Board for the coming year, a group of highly motivated and accomplished brothers who are eager to lead the chapter to new heights. Each member brings unique strengths and a commitment to upholding our core values.



President: Sam Reish '26

Sam, a junior majoring in Finance, is a dedicated leader and member of the prestigious Wall Street Scholars program. Aspiring to work in high finance after graduation, Sam is well-equipped to guide the chapter through the challenges of the future. *"I'm ready for the upcoming year and looking forward to making a positive impact on the fraternity. I'm hoping to keep the traditions of high academics while also keeping the culture alive."*

Vice President: Matt Maledon '27

A sophomore also studying Finance, Matt joins Sam as a fellow member of the Wall Street Scholars program. With his eye on a future in the financial sector, Matt is poised to provide strong support in maintaining the internal operations of the fraternity, ensuring that the brotherhood remains focused on both academics and personal growth.

Recording Secretary: Brogan Kelly '27

Brogan, a sophomore majoring in Business Administration, will play a key role in maintaining the fraternity's records and helping the E-Board stay organized. His business background will be invaluable in ensuring efficient communication and transparency within the chapter.

Corresponding Secretary: John Abbott '27

A sophomore Finance major, John will be responsible for managing external communications with alumni, other fraternity chapters, university officials, and Phi Gamma Delta headquarters. His attention to detail and dedication to keeping strong relationships will serve our chapter well.

Historian: Connor Young '27

Connor, a sophomore in Business, will oversee the documentation of the chapter's history and events, preserving the legacy of the fraternity for future generations. His business mindset will also help maintain organized and thorough records of all chapter activities.

With this talented team at the helm, Upsilon Alpha is set for another year of success, both academically and socially. Their leadership and vision will ensure that our brotherhood continues to thrive. Their goal is to successfully compete for awards and, ultimately, win another Cheney Cup.

Tobi Adigun '24 wins special NIC Award

Oluwatobi "Tobi" Adigun, a member of Phi Gamma Delta's Upsilon Alpha chapter at the University of Arizona, has been recognized as an Undergraduate of Distinction by the North American Interfraternity Conference. He is one of only two undergraduate members of the Fraternity to be awarded this honor.

Tobi was presented his award at the 176th Phi Gamma Delta Ekklesia on August 8th in Chicago, Illinois. Jud Horras, President and CEO of the NIC, presented the award at the Ekklesia Opening Banquet. Rob Caudill, Phi Gamma Delta's Executive Director, declared that "this is well deserved. Tobi, you should be proud of the positive impact that you have made, and for the example you have set for our brothers through this honor."

The North American Interfraternity Conference (NIC) is a trade association that represents national and international men's fraternities on campuses in the United States and Canada. The NIC is committed to supporting opportunities for young men to seek and form positive, enriching fraternal bonds. The health and safety of students guides their advocacy, standards and education.

Tobi graduated in May with a Chemical Engineering degree while serving as a member of the University of Arizona President's Advisory Council. He hopes to be able "to not only bring a different perspective to the discussions through the eyes of a student, but ultimately bridge the gap between all demographics of our UA community."

Tobi also served on the Executive Board of the Interfraternity Council as Vice President of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. He was elected President of the prestigious Bobcat Senior Honorary, created for the purpose of preserving the unity and welfare of the University of Arizona by always being alert to guide in the right direction.

Upsilon Alpha Hall of Fame Inductees 2024

Phi Gamma Delta is a fraternity built on great pride and a tradition of excellence. Our many distinguished graduates have only served to enhance this throughout the years. The Upsilon Alpha chapter has seen many brothers rise to positions of great respect since our founding at the University of Arizona. The Hall of Fame was conceived as a way of honoring Phi Gamma Delta and Upsilon Alpha graduates for their outstanding achievements. Inductees are among a select group of brothers. This distinction honors them for their career achievements, service to the community, and dedication to the fraternity. Every other year we induct prominent chapter graduates during our Norris Pig Dinner at Homecoming.

Here are the Upsilon Alpha Hall of Fame inductees for 2024:



Bill Wheeler '60

Bill Wheeler '60, a name resonating with achievements and contributions, embarked on a journey marked by dedication and excellence. Born into a

world of possibilities, Bill's story began in the heart of academia, at the University of Arizona, where he laid the foundation for a remarkable career and a life filled with purpose.

With a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy earned in 1960, Bill graduated poised to make a difference. His collegiate journey was not merely about academic pursuits but also about fostering connections and building lifelong bonds. As an undergraduate, he immersed himself in campus life, leaving his mark through involvement in organizations like Sophos and Traditions, and fraternity activities that bonded him closely with his peers.

After graduation, Bill's thirst for knowledge and ambition led him to Arizona State University, where he pursued an MBA in 1971. Other post graduate education included Marketing at Columbia University, Organizational Behavior at Northwestern University, Finance at Penn's famous Wharton School, and Negotiations at Harvard/MIT. Armed with advanced knowledge in business administration, he was ready to tackle the corporate world with a blend of pharmaceutical expertise and managerial acumen.

Bill's career trajectory was nothing short of impressive. He began his professional journey at Eli Lilly and Company, where he cultivated his skills and rose through the ranks. His tenure at Lilly saw him assume various roles, from associate in field sales assignments to director of marketing for US corporations. His contributions to the pharmaceutical industry were recognized early on, earning Bill acclaim as an outstanding young sales representative. He worked at Eli Lilly his entire professional life.

In 1982, Bill's career took a significant turn as he assumed the role of Field Sales Director for major hospitals in Chicago, marking the beginning of his ascent into executive leadership. Over the years, he held pivotal positions in national marketing for hospitals, group purchasing organizations, and major healthcare corporations, leaving an indelible mark on each organization he served. He also managed various endeavors in international sales and was a National Advisory Board Member. Contributing significantly to the company for such a long period, Bill eventually retired in 1997.

Bill's professional achievements were complemented by his commitment to community service and philanthropy. A devout member of the Roman Catholic Church, he served as a financial advisor and lent his expertise to numerous committees. His altruistic spirit extended beyond religious circles, as he volunteered with organizations like the United Way, embodying the values of compassion and generosity. He has served on the Advisory Board for the National Employers Group and also as an officer in the U.S. Air Force Medical Service Corps.

Amidst his professional and philanthropic endeavors, Bill remained deeply connected to his alma mater and fraternity, Upsilon Alpha of Phi Gamma Delta, where he was initiated in 1957. Bill claims "my fraternity brothers remain my best friends today." His contributions to Fiji went beyond financial support, as he maintained close ties with his fraternity brothers, cherishing the memories of his college years and the friendships forged during that time. As a charter member of the College of Pharmacy Advisory Board at the University of Arizona, he remained actively engaged in shaping the future of his field.

For Brother Bill, life was not just about climbing the corporate ladder or amassing accolades; it was about leaving a lasting legacy of integrity, compassion, and service. His journey from a young graduate to a seasoned executive was defined by his unwavering commitment to excellence and his dedication to making a difference in the lives of others. As he entered retirement, his legacy continued to inspire generations, a testament to the enduring impact of a life lived with purpose and passion. Bill and his wife, Patty, have two sons and live in Indianapolis, Indiana.



Jim Boice '71

Dr. James Bryan Boice '71 is a retired pathologist with an impressive career and a strong commitment to his community. Born in Phoenix, Arizona, Jim attended West Phoenix High School where he served as Student Body President. After graduating in 1967, he entered the

University of Arizona and pursued a Bachelor of Science degree in Zoology. During his time there he achieved scholarship with high distinction and was honored with memberships in Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Kappa Phi, both prestigious academic honoraries. Jim also received the Chain Gang Award for being the outstanding junior man and the Robert Logan Nugent Award for being the outstanding graduating senior.

Brother Boice was actively involved in various campus organizations including Sophos, Chain Gang, Bobcats, and the Student Union Activities Board (SUAB), where he served as Vice President. But perhaps his biggest accomplishment was being a member of Phi Gamma Delta where he held the positions of Rush Chairman and Chapter President. In recognition of Upsilon Alpha's exceptional achievements during his tenure, our Chapter was awarded the Cheney Cup in 1971 as the 'best Fiji chapter in the nation.'

Continuing his pursuit of knowledge, Jim attended the University of Utah Medical School from 1971 to 1975. He excelled academically and was chosen President of his graduating class. Jim completed his internship and residency at the Naval Regional Medical Center in San Diego specializing in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology. He obtained board certification in these fields and became a Diplomate of the National Board of Medical Examiners. His dedication to his profession led him to become a Fellow of the College of American Pathologists. He is an active member of several professional societies including the American Medical Association, the California Medical Association, and the Butte-Glenn Medical Society.

During his career, Boice served as a Lieutenant Commander in the U.S. Navy, working at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland. He held various positions including Assistant Professor at the Uniformed Services Medical School. He later became a Liaison Pathologist at the Naval Regional Medical Center in Quantico, Virginia.

From 1981 to 2016, Dr. Boice practiced as a pathologist in Chico, California. He was a member of the Pathology Services Medical Group, a founder of Medlab Services, and made significant contributions to the Chico Community Hospital where he served as Director of Lab and later, as Chief of Staff. He served on the Governing Board of Enloe Memorial Hospital and as Staff Pathologist at Feather River Hospital, Colusa Community Hospital, Glenn Medical Center, Gridley Orchard Hospital, and Chico Rehabilitation Hospital.

Boice's dedication to his community is evident through his involvement in various organizations. He is a founder of Golden Valley Bank and has been a benefactor for the Torres Community Center, the Enloe Hospital Foundation, the Salvation Army Rehabilitation Center, the Chico Community Scholarship Association, the Renewal Center, and Habitat for Humanity.

Jim is married to Tucson native Sally Bland-Boice, a Registered Nurse Practitioner specializing in Obstetrics and Gynecology. Together they have 3 sons: Braden, a Radiologist, Paul, a Registered Nurse, and Alex, a Mechanical Engineer. Jim and Sally are also blessed with 3 grandchildren: Austin, Olivia, & Vienna.

Team, several SUAB committees, and served as Sophomore Class President. As a senior he had the unique experience and honor to work as an assistant in Vice President Marvin D. "Swede" Johnson's office, which gave him great respect for our University. He was also selected as a member of Sophos and Chain Gang men's honoraries.

Upon graduation and having participated in ROTC, Bob was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant and went on active duty in 1972. He became an Army aviator and served overseas in South Korea in an Assault Helicopter Company. In this assignment he had various leadership positions and was selected to attend the Fixed Wing Multi-Engine Qualification Course (FWMEQC) upon his return to the States. He subsequently served as Flight Operations Officer in a small flight detachment in Denver, Colorado until 1979.

Released from active duty, Bob pursued a career as an airline pilot, first with Ozark Airlines, followed by TWA and then American Airlines. He flew as a Captain on MD-80 and Boeing 727 aircraft until retirement with American Airlines in 2006. While progressing in his civilian career, he maintained a reserve status in the Army and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel with 23 years of service. Among other things he served as a Personnel Management Officer on the General Staff for active-duty field grade officers. Since retiring, he did some volunteer flying for Wings of Hope which included a medical mission to Peru.

In 2007 Bob was asked to run for City Council in Chesterfield, Missouri and was elected to 3 two-year terms, after which he ran for Mayor in 2013. He is now serving his third 4-year term. Chesterfield is fortunate to be served by two of the largest and highest-ranked school districts in the state and is now the second largest municipality in St. Louis County. It is a vibrant and growing community that has experienced significant progress in recent years and boasts high assessed property valuations. The city is about to embark on a 2-billion-dollar redevelopment of an obsolete mega-mall that will become a mixed-use downtown focal point for the area.

One of the achievements Bob is most proud of is the passage of HB 1561 in 2016, which modified the State Statute that dictates a fairer distribution of sales taxes throughout St. Louis County. This was accomplished by working with the State Legislature and the help of lobbyists. Bob says that "having had this experience, I have learned a lot about local government and how we serve our residents and businesses."

Bob has always maintained that his association with Phi Gamma Delta has been a positive influence and an important part of his life. From time to time, he recalls our motto: "Friendship, the sweetest influence" which seems to be a comforting guiding concept. He also believes that Phi Gamma Delta is "not for college days alone" and returns to Tucson frequently for Homecoming. His brother Scott (Arizona '75) and son Rob (Indiana '03) are also Phi Gams.

Bob has been married to Louise since 1980. They met when they were both active-duty Army and remained in the Army Reserves, retiring as Lieutenant Colonels. They have 3 married sons (Rob, Andy & Chris) and six grandchildren.



Bob Nation '72

Although originally from a small town in southern Illinois, Bob Nation graduated from Rincon High School in Tucson and proudly became a Fiji pledge in the fall semester of 1968. While at U of A, he was a member of the Varsity Wrestling



Curtis Dunshee '82

Curtis J. Dunshee '82 was born in Kansas City and lived there until his family moved to Tucson in 1974. He went to Amphi High School and lettered in tennis all 4 years. After graduating in 1978, Curt chose the University of Arizona because "it was the least expensive school to attend with decent

academic credentials."

He pledged Fiji that fall and was initiated in early 1979. Brother Curt was elected Recording Secretary as a junior and then Chapter President as a senior. Upsilon Alpha nearly won the Cheney Cup that year, finishing in third place. Curt enjoyed intramurals and remembers winning championships in tennis, speedball and soccer. A major highlight was winning the penalty shootout against the Pikes to secure the championship match win in soccer. Curt was the goalie. He claims that "Fiji gave me the foundation to achieve my life goals and friends to share the journey."

Active in extracurricular activities, Curt was selected to the men's honoraries Primus, Sophos, Chain Gang, Blue Key and Bobcats. He was also selected Outstanding Junior Man. Due to his outstanding academics, he was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa, the oldest scholarship society in the United States. After graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry, Curt was admitted to the University of Arizona College of Medicine. He did so well academically that he was selected to the Alpha Omega Alpha medical honor society.

After graduating from medical school, Curt completed an internship in General Surgery at the University of California, Irvine. He also did his Urology Residency there before returning to Tucson to set up his medical practice in 1993. He has been in private practice with Urological Associates of Southern Arizona ever since then. Curt specializes in numerous areas including prostate cancer, laser surgery, stone disease, and bladder cancer.

Dr. Dunshee served as a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Surgery at UArizona, Chairman of the Division of Urology at St. Mary's Hospital in Tucson, Chairman of the Laser Committee at Carondelet Hospital, Chief of Surgery at St. Mary's Hospital, Chairman of the Executive Management Committee at the Northwest Surgery Center, and the Board of Trustees of Northwest Hospital, Tucson.

His professional affiliations include the American Urological Association, American College of Surgeons, Pima Medical Society, American Board of Urology, American Medical Association, Arizona Urology Specialists, and Advanced Clinical Therapeutics. As a board-certified surgeon who has passed a rigorous evaluation of his education, training, professional qualifications, surgical competence, and ethical conduct, Curt has earned the post-nominal title FACS (Fellow of the American College of Surgeons).

Married to Beth Goss (Chi Omega '84) since 1986, they have 2 children, Keara and Patrick, and two grandchildren. Curt enjoys spending time with his family, playing tennis whenever he can, and keeping his yard free of pack rats.



Deron Bocks '86

Deron Paul Bocks was born in Cincinnati, Ohio and lived there until he was 14, when his family moved to northern California. He attended Campolindo High School in Moraga, CA, where he played baseball and football with current UofA baseball coach Chip Hale. Deron

played junior college football in northern California in the fall of his freshman year and then transferred to UofA in an attempt to play football for the spring semester. Unfortunately, he was injured in a scrimmage late that spring which cut his football career short. That fall he was faced with quite a bit of extra time on his hands, so he decided to see what fraternity rush was all about. Deron pledged Upsilon Alpha in the fall of 1983 and served as Pledge Class President. While in the house, he also served as Pledge Trainer, Hasher, Graduate Relations Chair, and Spring Fling Chairman. He now serves the local Fraternity as a member of the Upsilon Alpha Building Corporation Board as well as the Capital Campaign Committee.

During his time at the UofA he was active on campus as well, serving on the Interfraternity Council, ASUA Senate, and Arizona Traditions Committee, while also playing 2 years of Rugby. He graduated in 1986 with dual bachelor's degrees in Finance and Marketing.

Following graduation Deron began a career in Corporate Investment & Real Estate Banking with Bank of America in San Francisco. While there he led teams that raised capital and orchestrated Mergers & Acquisitions transactions for some of Silicon Valley's most prominent firms.

After 11 years with BofA, he founded a private equity firm focused on acquiring residential golf properties, which prior to successfully exiting the portfolio to a strategic buyer in 2002, owned 21 courses across a 7-state region. His private equity success was followed by a return to his banking roots, when he served as founding President & CEO of two nationally chartered commercial banks in Arizona, both of which still operate today.

Since "retiring" from his bank President & CEO role in 2014, Deron has orchestrated the acquisition of two private golf clubs in Arizona and founded CapMatrix LTD, a full-service capital markets advisory firm where he continues to serve as President & Managing Partner. He also participated as an integral part of the team that launched a new community bank in Scottsdale.

In addition to numerous corporate and advisory boards on which he participates, Brother Bocks is also very involved in the local community with business and charitable organizations. He holds board positions with YPO International, Urban Land Institute, Crohn's & Colitis Foundation, Phoenix Children's Hospital Foundation, Valley of the Sun United Way, and Arizona Leader Force.

Deron currently resides in Scottsdale with his wife Julie (UofA AEPi '87), and is the proud father of two adult sons, Brady (UofA Alpha Sig '18) and Davis (UofA Sigma Chi '19).

Glimpses of the *Past & Present*



FIJI Photo Archives

The Graduate Office at the chapter house is used to store historical information such as chapter minutes, documents, photos, etc. Hard copy photos have given way to digital ones. The issue is that digital photos are stored in a variety of places on a diverse number of devices and can be difficult to retrieve.

For a number of years, Brother Art Scarla '72, has been Upsilon Alpha's unofficial photographer and has taken pictures at our Pig Dinners. In addition, he archives many fraternity photos in his extensive storage site. Upsilon Alpha would be best served if there was a central location for our chapter's digital photos. Brother Scarla has offered to help out.

Please send any photos (with info) of graduate brother outings, meetings, social events, etc. to Art for inclusion in the chapter's archives. The easiest way to get photos to him is probably by email: art@reptronix.com cell: 602-820-0111

Congratulations to our 2024 Smith-Cheney Spirit Award Recipient



Alec Vendetti '25

Now in its sixth year, the Smith-Cheney Spirit Award was created to honor an undergraduate brother who has exhibited special characteristics, exemplified by the late Steven L. Smith '72. Pledging Upsilon Alpha in the Fall of 1968, Steve "T-Bear" Smith immediately got involved in committees on campus, the local community, and in the fraternity. His bright example of volunteerism was a source of inspiration for all. But maybe his biggest role was to be there for his brothers in the fraternity. He was a shining example of participating in anything he could to further the goals of Upsilon Alpha and help make the

chapter worthy of the Cheney Cup, given to the most outstanding Fiji chapter in the nation. Steve passed 'Ad Astra' seven years ago and this award was established in his name. Every year a deserving brother's name will be added to the permanent plaque in the Fiji House, and a framed certificate will go to the recipient. He doesn't have to be "the most popular," the "best scholar" or "best athlete," but rather, the brother that exemplifies the person who would gladly sacrifice "for the good of the Chapter." Just like Steve.

The five previous recipients were Jacob Crow '20, Alex Gray '22, Sebastian Magri '24, Ben Atkinson '24 and Kevin Loy '25. The Awards Committee, with advice from some of the key leaders in the chapter, considered all worthy candidates and selected the winner. The recipient of the 2024 Smith-Cheney Spirit Award was Alec Vendetti '25.

These are some comments made about him by his peers: "This outstanding member has shown nothing but pure dedication to everything in which he is involved."

"He has been one of the most influential brothers in my life, as he consistently goes out of his way to take care of those around him and offer his wisdom where it is needed. Never once have I seen or heard him straying from his moral compass."

"An extremely driven young man, he is a well-respected figure and friend to those in his fraternity and throughout campus organizations. He is a high-performing scholar who is an expert in his field of financial markets."

"He has involved himself everywhere on campus, beginning with huge roles in the Eller Wall Street Scholars Program & Investments Club. He presently serves as the President of Bobcats Senior Honorary."

"Nobody is more deserving of this award, as I believe he not only embodies everything that a Phi Gam stands for, but what a Wildcat stands for as well."

"He continues to make efforts to be around the House and support all activities that we hold. If you ask any person in this chapter who one of the most respected seniors in the chapter is, there is a 99% chance they respond with this brother's name."

Congratulations to Alec Vendetti, a worthy recipient who has duly earned the respect of his brothers!

WELCOME!

Fall 2024 New Members

Omicron Class

John Alexander Bonellos, *Scottsdale, AZ*
Business Management

Billy Pearson McCorkle, *Madison, WI*
Applied Biotechnology

Blake Parker Stevens, *Scottsdale, AZ*
Finance

Brendan John Kurtin, *Mequon, WI*
Business Management

Caden Reid Murray, *Scottsdale, AZ*
MIS & Computer Science

Cole David Bailey, *Tacoma, WA*
Biochemistry

Constantine John DeMoss, *Scottsdale, AZ*
Business Management

Dominic Mario Espinoza, *Scottsdale, AZ*
Business Management

Dominic Milliron Skally, *Seattle, WA*
Finance

Jack Robert Davey, *Newport Beach, CA*
Business Management

Jackson Daniel Fredenberg, *Phoenix, AZ*
Business Management

Jacob James Buggie, *Phoenix, AZ*
Business Management

Jake Albert Arellano, *Pasadena, CA*
Business Management

Jake Brian Dicus, *Scottsdale, AZ*
Neuroscience

Jase Brian Nyugen, *Phoenix, AZ*
Business Management

Joaquin Thomas Almaraz, *Scottsdale, AZ*
Business Management



Johnny Albert Walker, *Highland Park, IL*
Business Management

Joseph Wayne Ostercamp, *Duwall, WA*
Business Management

Justin Joseph Tapp, *Austin, TX*
Business Management

Matthew Gerald Niezgodski, *Phoenix, AZ*
Urban & Regional Development

Mickey Ian Chapple, *Scottsdale, AZ*
Business Management

Peyton Joseph Sprangers, *Seattle, WA*
Business Management

Preston Andrew Summers, *Manhattan Beach, CA*, Business Management

Ryan Bradley Spencer, *Tucson, AZ*
Business Management

Sam McGregor Chase, *Novato, CA*
Business Management

Samuel Joshua Lingerfelt, *Duwall, WA*
Engineering

Tyler Edward Leskovar, *Phoenix, AZ*
Physiology

Zach Thomas Hanover, *Phoenix, AZ*
Finance

Zander William Pleshar, *Boise, ID*
Business Management

Fiji Wins IFC Awards

At the recent Interfraternity Council Awards Banquet at the University of Arizona, Upsilon Alpha won the “Outstanding Philanthropy and Community Service Award.” Also recognized for their contributions to the Greek Community through individual awards were the following brothers:

IFC Outstanding Treasurer:
Srikar Mandava

IFC Outstanding New Member Educator:
Nate Langley

IFC Outstanding DEI Chairman:
Eli Udenze

And congratulations to
Srikar Mandava and Drew Vanderah
for being elected to the next
IFC Executive Board!

Upsilon Alpha Recognized at Ekklesia



Great news from the 176th Ekklesia held August 8-11, 2024, in Chicago, Illinois: Upsilon Alpha placed second for the Cheney Cup!

We also got 2nd for the Coon Plaque (best publication). We placed 3rd for the Jordan Bowl (highest comparative scholarship) as well as the Baker Cup (focus upon religious, ethical, and social service activities). Our chapter was also recognized as standout performers in the Zerman Trophy (involvement in student government, campus newspaper, and extracurricular activities), and the Brightman Trophy (maintaining and improving graduate relations). We are so close to being ‘the best chapter in the Fraternity’ and will continue to push for ‘all-around efficiency in scholarship, fraternity relationships, and general collegiate activities.’

Upsilon Alpha also won a Certificate of Superior Academic Achievement and the John Templeton McCarty Chapter Proficiency Award demonstrating efficiency in operations, adherence to Fraternity laws, maintaining a favorable standing with the sponsoring institution, and promoting the high standard of Phi Gamma Delta. Congratulations to all who made this possible.



Fijis Support Family Weekend Golf Tournament

The fourth annual University of Arizona Greek Golf Tournament was held on Friday of Family Weekend 2024. Teams from most fraternities and sororities on campus were represented and raised money benefitting the Kevin Barleycorn Scholarship Fund, the Rebekah Hoppel Salcedo Memorial Scholarship Fund, the UA Greek Life Leadership Fund, and Military Heroes charity.

Corporal Kevin Barleycorn was a UAPD officer who lost his life trying to protect fraternity members. A \$2500 scholarship is awarded to an incoming freshman in his honor. Applicants must have family members employed in criminal justice or law enforcement fields.

Rebekah Salcedo was the former University of Arizona Executive Director for Scholarships & Financial Aid who passed away in 2009. In her memory a scholarship was established to help students who have worked hard, exhausted every financial option, and just need a little more support to make it.

The UA Greek Leadership Program offers many different opportunities to improve leadership skills. This year we helped fund the Undergraduate Fraternity Institute, Greek Academy, Association of Fraternity Values & Leadership Conference, Job Judo (career program), Hunter White Health Advocate program, Great Greek Weekend, and sexual assault prevention programs.

The Military Heroes Campaign supports ongoing care for our military veterans and their families.

The tournament was held at the El Conquistador Golf Club and over \$13,500 was raised for our charities through sponsorships, raffle items and other donations. The format was a 4-person Scramble, and 33 teams competed in a shotgun start. Gift bags and lunch were included. Eight Phi Gams participated in the tournament.

The All-Fiji team of Alex Gray '22, Alec Vendetti '25, Claton Martin '25, and Jeff Derickson '72 came in First Place! Plan on joining us next year for some fun and philanthropy.

Alumni Spotlight

Rick Guphill '82

Rick Guphill was born in Tucson, attended Rincon High School, and joined Fiji in the fall semester of 1978. He was an honors student and studied Electrical Engineering. Rick met his wife Kim Altemus (Kappa Alpha Theta) in one of his Honors classes. Many Fiji brothers from that era give Rick credit for helping them through difficult classes and exam preparation. During his Fiji fraternity tenure, he was named Best Athlete, Most Purple, and Excellent Brother.

Rick received his Bachelor of Science degree in 1982 and went on to graduate studies at Purdue University where he received a Master's degree (1984) and Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering (1988). He was fascinated by the emerging field of robotics and became a leader in that field, transforming the manufacturing process at many companies worldwide. After working internationally in France with Renault Automation, Rick moved to San Jose in 1991, where he landed a job in robot simulation.

Rick is currently Chief Technology Officer for Applied Computing & Engineering (AC&E Ltd.) and is an owner and CTO for several other affiliated companies that Rick and his partners created. AC&E Ltd. provides software and automation solutions for a variety of industries including aerospace, automotive, steel fabrication, shipbuilding, electronics, and general manufacturing including clients such as Airbus, Boeing, DaimlerChrysler, and Nissan.

Rick attended the UofA Homecoming this October and enjoyed visiting with many of his Fiji brothers. He and Kim have two children, Charley (32) and Annic (29), both living in Tucson.

Rick has many great memories of his time at the Fiji House. Among those, "I remember teaching a class to the pledges on 'How to Study

in College.' I recall lots of Fortran programs and numerous homework problems in other people's majors! I write software for a living now, and I thank the Fiji brothers for letting me practice my programming on them."

"We were consistently very good at sports. In my senior year, Fiji won the intramural football championship. We won at horseshoes and speed walking also."

"My favorite memory must be the 1-0 soccer championship game we won on Tad Diethrich's goal and then, because I organized the team, everyone gave me an old Fiji trophy with a signed soccer ball on top and named it the 'Guppy Cup.' I still have it!"

"Mostly I remember the feeling that living in the Fiji House was a transformative experience for me. The constant close interaction and the shared experiences focused me on being authentic with everyone, confronting my flaws, and developing a sense of accountability."

"My advice for current brothers: Look around and pay attention. These people are shaping you in ways that will last forever. You should thank them."

"As always, I'm mighty proud to be a Fiji!"



Support our Upsilon Alpha Fiji Chapter How Can You Make A Difference?

- Speak on a career panel or hold 1-on-1 career discussions
- Providing internship and/or full-time job opportunities to members
- Attending Homecoming, the Pig Dinner or other alumni events
- Help on our Homecoming/Pig Dinner planning committee
- Help us plan an alumni event in your city
- Volunteer to assist with the Board of Chapter Advisors or Building Corporation Board
- Support the chapter financially with a donation to the Phi Gamma Delta Educational Foundation, Arizona Chapter House Endowment Fund (CHEF) or Arizona General Scholarship Fund
- Designate a legacy gift from your estate supporting the Upsilon Alpha Building Corporation
- Make an Annual Fund donation to support the Upsilon Alpha Building Corporation with enhancement projects at the Fiji House

Thanks for your support!



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Keep up with Upsilon Alpha!

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<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/13669474/>



FACEBOOK

We are proud to create the first Facebook Group dedicated to University of Arizona Fijis of all eras! This is a private place to gather all UA Fijis (undergraduate and graduate), share information, stories, news, photos, videos, and plan upcoming events. We hope it serves to break down the barriers between intergenerational brothers by allowing for shared experiences and networking among members at different stages of their fraternity journey, and as a reflection that Fiji is "Not For College Days Alone".

We would appreciate assistance from brothers of all decades, so if you are interested in becoming a Group administrator, please let us know.

Feel free to invite or send a link
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/upsilonalphafijis>
to the Group to any Upsilon Alpha Fiji brother.

Contact Dan Kates if you have any questions
[danielkates@icloud.com or 650-619-4175