



THE SIG FIJI

SIGMA CHAPTER OF PHI GAMMA DELTA

WITTENBERG UNIVERSITY

VOL 14 - ISSUE 3

"We're setting the standard"

FALL/WINTER 2010

Brother Follows Higher Calling

By: Cody McKim '11

Typically, graduating seniors plan to enter the labor force, apply to graduate school, or take some time off after college. However, graduate brother Alex Williams '10 decided to follow another path upon his graduation from Wittenberg. After graduating with a Bachelor's Degree in Geography, Alex enlisted into the Army. Due to his achievements at Wittenberg, he was accepted into the prestigious elite officer's school of the Army Reserve.

Alex is currently in his first few months of basic training at Fort Benning, GA, undoubtedly testing his own persistence every day. Ever since I have known Alex, his willpower has always been something that has stuck out to me. He has always had a passion for enlisting in the Army, and I am glad to see that finally become



ALEX WILLIAMS '10

a reality. I know I speak on behalf of everyone that knows Alex when I say how proud we are of him. Alex had many job opportunities available, but turned them all down to serve our country, admirable to say the least.

Alex is a double legacy at

-CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 -

Fiji Haikus

By: Gus Domenick '13

Fiji means to me
secretive fraternity
none I'd rather be

Fiji Gentlemen
No one is a better friend
Press on til the end

The flag football champs?
Forget Delta Tau Delta...
Phi Gamma Delta!

Forever We'll be
Not for college days alone;
Always a Fiji.

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The Standard"
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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Brothers:

Welcome to the latest edition of the SigFiji! This fall issue addresses the new occurrences that have developed at Sigma Chapter over the past few months. This past weekend, Wittenberg celebrated yet another homecoming which witnessed plenty of brotherly love and ideal weather. This issue features articles recapping homecoming, the new residents of 2 West (Chi-O House), a brother enlisted in service, pledge biographies, and much more! Thank you very much for taking the time to look over this newsletter to remain up to date on Fijiland.

Being a senior in the chapter now, really has made me appreciate the final year I have here as an undergraduate. We are having a very successful semester thus far and intend to carry that out through the remainder of the year. These successes include having our very own Greek Week God (Dave Klvana '11), winning the fourth consecutive Greek Week flag football championship, winning games night as a fraternity, and winning the lip sync contest with our lovely partners (The DG's).

Also, this semester we welcome two new pledges to the fraternity, Tyler Hall and Steve Montross. These are two quality young men who we feel demonstrate the ideals of Fiji gentlemen. In addition to pledging, we intend to hold two more philanthropic events this year, which include a campus clean-up and our annual Thanksgiving Dinner.

If you have any comments, concerns, or article ideas, please feel free to email me at s11.cmckim@wittenberg.edu.

I look forward to hearing from you and finding areas where we can make the SigFiji more helpful as a resource between brothers.

Enjoy the newsletter!

Perge!

Cody McKim '11

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I regret to say that this will be my last report as president in the Sig Fiji. I am still unsure where I will end up after college but one possibility is to continue my service to Phi Gamma Delta in Lexington as a field secretary. I will be applying this Winter so I hope for the best. In terms of chapter operations, the house has been busy. The past three weeks have included Greek Week, Homecoming, and our field secretary visit. Greek week was a great time as usual. Despite winning every major event (Flag football, lip sync, and tug of war) our chapter didn't win the overall championship. Regardless my brothers and I had a great time working with our sorority partner the Delta Gammas. Homecoming brought back old memories of my freshman year. It was great to spend time with the brothers I looked up to when I was only a pledge in Phi Gamma Delta. Our field secretary visit immediately followed homecoming weekend and was very productive. So overall I'd say the past month has been a great way to start my senior year.

Informal recruitment was a little disappointing in that we only have two pledging this fall. While the number was below where we had hoped, I am pleased with Steve and Tyler's progress so far and look forward to calling these two men my brothers. For philanthropy we have our annual thanksgiving dinner coming up here at 20 Ferncliff Pl. November 11th. Looking back on my time here at Sigma chapter I have so many great memories it will be hard to say goodbye in the spring. While leaving will be hard, I wouldn't change a minute of my college career.

As always I am proud to be a SigFiji,

Fraternally,

Kurt Meige '11



KURT MEIGE '11

Graduate Brother Follows Higher Calling

-CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE -

Wittenberg, both his father (Todd) and uncle (Gayne) were former presidents at Sigma Chapter. Alex served as Recording Secretary during his junior year at Witt. The Williams' family has given a lot to 20 West Ferncliff Place, and I know Alex will continue that family tradition through his service to our country.

If you would like to reach out to Alex, please feel free to send

a brief letter to him, I know he would appreciate the support.

OC Williams/Alexander

Class number 002-11 (1st platoon)

Bravo Company 3-11 Infantry (OCS)

6510 Benjamin Avenue, BLDG 2749

Fort Benning, GA 31905

E-mail: Alexander.P.Williams2@us.army.mil

"Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent."

Press on Dubs!

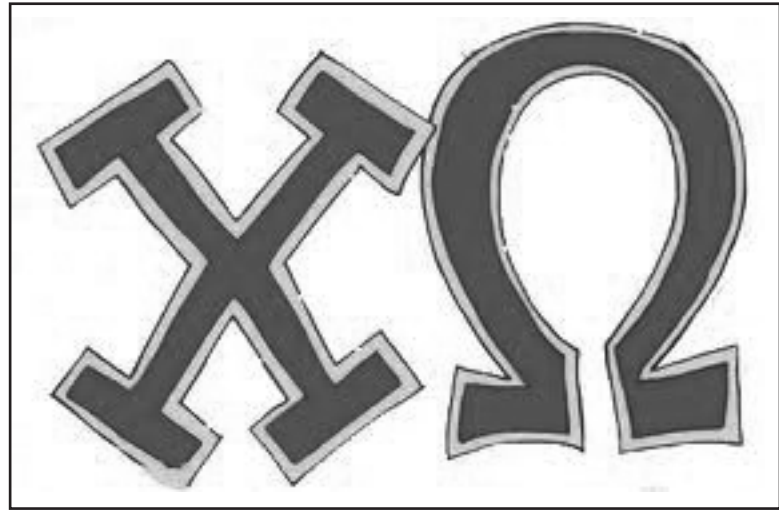
End of an Era: Chi-O's no Longer Neighbors

By: Cody McKim '11

Unfortunately, this past year, we witnessed quite a few changes to Greek Life here at Wittenberg. We witnessed a new Greek Advisor, Carol Preston from Ohio University, stricter guidelines for greek activities, as well as the Chi Omega's losing their chapter.

The Chi-O's lost their chapter due to hazing violations that occurred throughout the previous year. The process was difficult on the Chi-O's as well as all Greek Life here due to the presence they have on campus. I think that being neighbors and good friends with their chapter, hurt Sigma a considerable amount too. We no longer have the best recruiting tool on campus next door, a house full of 50 sorority girls. However, we are prepared for the ever changing campus climate here at Wittenberg, and hope to continue our tradition at 20 West.

The Chi-O house has been filled this year and is being leased by Wittenberg. It currently is being used for housing for Campus Ministries, quite an adjustment from a sorority, although we are still providing the utmost hospitality to our neighbors.



Wittenberg is currently exploring the idea of bringing back a sorority to campus, with many past chapters showing interest. Also, Witt plans to add another Fraternity on campus to increase the interest in greek life. I know that we are hoping another sorority joins our ranks sooner rather than later. But hey, after so many years with one as a neighbor, can you blame us?

Mold claims residency at 20 West Ferncliff, evicted by Apex

By: Ryan Hagen '12

Recently 20 West Ferncliff has been subject to a moderate scale restoration. It was discovered in August after the long summer, that there had been some significant mold buildup during the summer months.

Due to the safety concerns that mold spores cause, action was taken immediately and Springfield, Ohio-based restoration company Apex was called in to take a look. After significant observations and testing, Apex declared the entire basement as well as the library to be unsafe to be in.

After negotiating contract terms with the SFAA, Apex immediately sealed off the contaminated areas and began their cleaning and removal process. That process included removing much of the furniture, drywall, and any



miscellaneous items that were contaminated. Most notably it was discovered that the billiards table was too contaminated to be saved and had to be thrown away.

Despite a large number of losses, Apex was able to save a large number of historical artifacts including every book in the library, each of which had to be cleaned, as well as every pledge class paddle that was mounted to the wall. Apex's process which includes hand cleaning the surfaces of contaminated items and well as large filters which remove any airborne spores and

contaminates has been ongoing since late September and they hope to be fully completed by the end of October. As each room passes the air quality test, it will be reopened for brothers to use again but as of October 16, no rooms have passed the test yet. Apex attests failed tests to such a wide coverage in mold in the first place, as well as a number of breaches in their quarantine walls, many of which occurred during homecoming weekend.

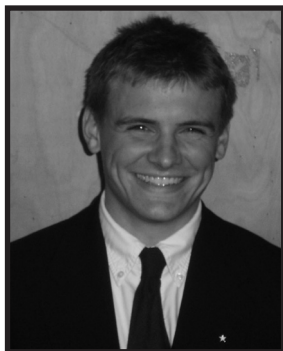
When it is all said and done and Apex has completed its work and the basement is restored to its previously livable conditions, it is estimated that it will cost the Sigma Chapter Alumni Association as much as \$20,000.

PLEDGE BIOS

Meet Tyler & Steven

Tyler Hall | Class of 2013

I'm from Evanston, IL a suburb of Chicago. I first discovered my interest in Wittenberg because my brother went here for his freshman year and I visited him while

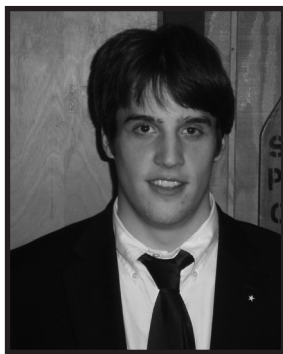


TYLER HALL '13

I was a sophomore in high school and I liked what the school had to offer. I eventually came to Wittenberg because I was recruited to play lacrosse here and I already knew a lot about the University. After experiencing Wittenberg as a freshman student I realized that I wanted to meet more people on campus. Sophomore year I received the FIJI bid which was a great opportunity. After learning about what FIJI had to offer and all the tradition within the fraternity I decided to pledge.

Steven Montross | Class of 2013

My name is Steven Phillips Montross Jr. My home town is Lake Forest, Illinois. I attended Lake Forest high school but then



STEVE MONTROSS '13

switched to Avon Old Farms School in Avon, Connecticut. I played lacrosse during my years in high school. I chose to come to Wittenberg because it's not too far away from my home town and I like the size. I want to become a Fiji to meet new people.

Greek Week Accomplishments*

1. Game Night Champions
2. Flag Football Champions: 4th in a Row
Delta Gamma's finished second in Flag Football
3. Lip Sync Champions
4. Greek God Champion: Senior David Klvana
(due to his good looks and skill on the guitar)

*Greek Week Partner: Delta Gamma.



DAVID KLVANA '11 WINS GREEK GOD COMPETITION DURING GREEK WEEK!

Where Are They Now?

In another recurring article about selected Graduate Brothers of Sigma Chapter, we recently asked one Brother from the recent decades to update us on their current lives, while also reflecting on their lifetime membership in Phi Gamma Delta. In their own words, here are...

DICK VELER (SIGMA '58)

1. I graduated from Wittenberg in 1958 and, after earning my advanced degrees, returned in 1965 to teach English. Having served as both a professor and an administrator, I retired unexpectedly in 2000—a new veteran of heart bypass surgery. My wife passed away late last year, the children are scattered throughout the country, and I continue to live in Springfield, where I do freelance editing—and a lot of “putzing.”

2. I recall the formality of many events “back then”: Monday night chapter meetings, nightly dinners presided over by the officers and housemother, and black-tie dances.

3. My college years in Phi Gamma Delta helped me to learn about and to respect many different kinds of people. I also acquired some leadership skills and saw teamwork in action. These attributes guided me throughout my career, even as they do now.

4. Any regrets that I might think of would pale in comparison with the several life-long friendships that I continue to appreciate. They're my best “takeaway” from

5 QUESTIONS

1. When did you graduate from Wittenberg, and what are you doing today?

2. What is your most memorable experience as a Fiji at Sigma Chapter?

3. Our fraternity has a slogan of “Not for college days alone.” What role has Phi Gamma Delta played in your life since graduating? What lessons did you learn from Sigma Chapter?

4. We have another saying of “No regrets for lost opportunities,” but is there anything you wished you would have done differently at Sigma Chapter?

5. What advice do you have for today's Undergraduate Brothers?

my days at Sigma.

5. Take advantage of all opportunities presented to you: from learning about the brothers as friends to studying hard to make the chapter proud, from participating in campus activities to doing an internship or studying abroad, from being a chapter officer to using the Fiji network to secure a job.

DAN RIGGLE (SIGMA '75)

1. 1975. I was commissioned an Armor Officer in the United States Army on Saturday, 14 June 1975 in the front lounge of the FIJI house. The next day was graduation and on Monday I reported for duty at Fort Knox (I don't know if there is any gold there, just a big place to keep it). I left the Army after four

good years, and returned to my hometown of Wooster, OH. My father and I worked together in our business for a few years and in 1988 I bought the company. My company is an industrial service company that specializes in combustion services.

While in the Army I met the sister of another officer in our tank company. Much to his chagrin, Debbie and I married in 1978 (we recently celebrated our 32d anniversary). We have three children, ages 29, 28, and 25. All doing well.

Various activities have taken up much of my time; volunteering with the Little League Baseball program, helping to “grow” Wooster's Lacrosse program, working in the Boy Scout program, working with our church in various capacities, various community construction projects, the Masonic Lodge...

2. Actually, there are a lot of great memorable moments from our years in living in the Fiji house, some of which can be printed: moving all the furniture from the Gamma Phi house to our parking lot while they were in a chapter meeting, streaking the Chi O's, Fiji Pie Throw, Hall ball in the tenement, Thursday night third-floor parties, evening meals in the back lounge (we even had manners), smoking Ebsary's green cigars (the Palmas) in the Pit, The Beach Parties, Fiji Island, 2:00 am trips to the “Silver Swan”. Many more thoughts come to mind each time I watch “Animal House”.

3. There are many lessons learned when living in a fraternity house, and a lot of those lessons come to mind in many situations throughout life. I have met many Phi Gams

Where Are They Now?

-CONTINUED FROM PAGE FIVE -

QUESTIONS

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throughout industry and in the military service, and the bonds of brotherhood and fraternity that exist have led to hours of discussion, business leads, and many laughs. I have been able to keep in touch with Sigma Chapter over the years by my association with the SFAA. Specifically, lessons learned: everybody brings something to the table; appearances are deceiving; enjoy the brotherhood and fraternity as much as you can in college (enjoy college while you're still there); honesty works; do things right the first time; in most every group, it's much easier to lead than to follow, and...sometimes you just have to courageously follow; life can be a challenge, just get on with it; strive to be a friend that can be counted on when the going gets tough.

4. My plate seemed pretty full

at the fraternity house, and I can't say there are regrets for lost opportunities. There always seemed to be a lot going on in the house, and it was easy to achieve any task when we were working together. . Done differently: Perhaps I could have studied a bit more while living at 20 West Ferncliff (well, maybe not)...

5. Before you know it, you will be graduating. Take advantage of the friendships with your brothers in Phi Gamma Delta while you can. Soon they probably will be going on with their life as you will be, and you may not see them later.

MARCUS HITT (SIGMA '05)

1. I graduated from Witt in 2005. Just after graduation, I moved to Lexington to serve the International Fraternity in a few different roles. Then, I moved to Columbus in 2008. Currently, I am a full-time joint degree MBA/MHA student at The Ohio State Fisher College of Business. My concentration is in Corporate Strategy and Marketing. Prior to business school, I was the Director of Licensing and Customer Service at a mortgage lender based here in Columbus, Ohio. I was recently married to another Witt graduate, Rebecca Sparks, in September.

2. There are many....and many more. Formal in Oglebay, WV, is probably one of my most memorable of weekends. I'd also mention my first Ekklesia in Atlanta. I just got back stateside from Denmark. It was the first time I was reunited with the Sigma brothers. We had a righteous time during our five

days down there in Atlanta.

3. I just got married here in Columbus. Phi Gams from across the U.S. made it to Columbus to help me celebrate.

4. I would have focused more on the five values. That stuff is real, and powerful. The oath we took was important - but it's only now that I understand how important the Fraternity has been and will always be in my life. I probably would have been more involved in leisure sports too, like nine-hole golf.

5. 1) Read the Purple Pilgrim daily. Read a page a day. Seriously, the leadership lessons in the purple book are ridiculously valuable - if implemented and practiced. Try more things now, and you'll fail less later. Failure is an option, but it's better to win. Winning takes practice. If you do win, act like you've been there before. 2) Live the life you want to live, but don't be selfish. Life is about relationships and you have to give to get. 3) Live in 20 West. You'll regret not living there for the rest of your life. Ask 99 out of 100 Sig Fijis, they'll tell you "if those walls could talk..." Why wouldn't you want to live a part of history?

Sigma Graduate Brothers: If you would like to be included in a "Where Are They Now?" article for a future issue of The Sig Fiji newsletter, please send an e-mail message to Skip Buckley ('80) at gabjr33@comcast.net.

Thanksgiving



SIGMA'S BROTHERS POSED AFTER A SUCCESSFUL THANKSGIVING DINNER AT THE CHAPTER HOUSE IN NOVEMBER. OVER 300 WITTENBERG STUDENTS, FACULTY, ADMINISTRATORS, AND NEIGHBORS WERE SERVED A TRADITIONAL THANKSGIVING DINNER THANKS TO SIGMA'S COOK, CAT O'NEILL, AND THE MOTHERS OF SEVERAL BROTHERS. OVER \$1,000 WAS RAISED FOR THE SPRINGFIELD-AREA ST. JOHN'S FOOD BANK.

Custom Fiji



SIGMA GRADUATE BROTHER DICK KEIER ('61) SHOWS OFF HIS NEW CUSTOMIZED LICENSE PLATE!

New Officers Elected

Sigma Chapter is proud to announce the following newly-elected officers who will lead our chapter in 2010-11:

- President: Sam Archibald ('13)
- Treasurer: Ryan Hagen ('12)
- Recording Secretary: Chad Downing ('13)
- Corresponding Secretary: Martin Brahier ('13)
- Historian: Jim Ferris ('12)

We'll include additional information about our new officers in an upcoming issue of The Sig Fiji newsletter!

Sigma Chapter to Send 11 Brothers to January 2011 Fiji Academy in St. Louis

Our International Fraternity of Phi Gamma Delta and the Phi Gamma Delta Educational Foundation annually sponsor each



January a leadership-training conference in St. Louis, Missouri, for newly-elected officers, recruitment chairs, and graduate advisors. Nearly 130 Fiji chapters and colonies, representing over 500 attendees, are expected to take over St. Louis on January 7 - 9, 2011, for intense seminars, in-depth training classes, and outstanding Brotherhood events.

Most chapters and colonies in Phi Gamma Delta will send three delegates, but Sigma Chapter is proud of the fact that 11 Brothers will be representing our chapter this year. They are:

- President: Sam Archibald ('13)
- Treasurer: Ryan Hagen ('12)
- Recording Secretary: Chad Downing ('13)
- Corresponding Secretary: Martin Brahier ('13)
- Historian: Jim Ferris ('12)
- Recruitment Chair: Chris Grasse ('12)
- Recruitment Liaison: Nick Ludwig ('13)
- Purple Legionnaire: Nate Dreyfuss ('10)
- PGD International Board of Conduct Member: Marcus Hitt ('05)
- PGD International Director of Expansion: Jesse Hitt ('07)
- Sig Fiji Alumni Association Secretary and PGD Section Chief: Skip Buckley ('80)

We'll be sure to update you in the next Sig Fiji newsletter on our chapter's participation in this incredible conference!

Sigma's Online Digital Presence

Sigma Chapter at Wittenberg has had an online presence on the Internet for over a dozen years! However, thanks to the great work of Sam Archibald ('13), we've recently updated our Sigma Chapter web site. Although it's still "under construction" as we went to press, please check it out. We also have two other online forums for all Sig Fijis: The Sig Fiji Alumni Association Blog and the LinkedIn Group for Sig Fijis. Be sure to check us out on all three websites to stay connected to our Sigma Chapter at Wittenberg.

(Top Right Photo)

Sigma Chapter Web Site:

http://www5.wittenberg.edu/student_organizations/fiji/index.html

(Middle Photo)

Sig Fiji Alumni Association Blog:

<http://sigfiji.blogspot.com/>

(Bottom Right Photo)

LinkedIn Group for Sig Fijis:

www.LinkedIn.com – go to Groups and select "Sigma Chapter"

