Treasures from the past

By Martin Brahier ’13

We were recently contacted by Mrs. Renee Shaffer, wife of Michael Shaffer ’49 (graduated from Purdue after two years at Wittenberg), generously offering to send us a number of vintage Fiji items. Her father-in-law, Harry E. Shaffer ’17, his brother, George, as well as George’s son, Dean, were all Fijis at Wittenberg. We eagerly opened her package a few weeks later containing true treasures: an array of pictures from the early 1900’s to the 1960’s, as well as a couple of Sig Fiji newsletters and editions of The Wittenberger, a yearbook published for every graduating class back in the day. Apart from the pictures that give us insight into what life must have been like at the old chapter house at 809 North Fountain (some of which are featured in this edition), one of the highlights was a letter by Sigma founder William L. Guard, which appeared in the Sig Fiji edition of October, 1949. It, too, is featured in this issue.

A complete set of the photos and Sig Fiji newsletters are available online at our website: http://www5.wittenberg.edu/student_organizations/fiji/index.html
Dear Brothers,

It is my pleasure to present you with the latest edition of the Sig Fiji newsletter!

Along with the usual update on the chapter’s activities and achievements, I hope you will enjoy a feature I tried to reinstate—and many may recognize—from issues of the past: the “Fiji Grapevine”, a section in which graduates can share any kind of information, updates on their lives, pictures, Fiji anecdotes, etc., with fellow Graduate Brothers. With their contributions, you will find their email addresses in case you would like to get in touch. This way we can provide a platform of communication with and among graduates.

A key feature remains the “Where Are They Now?” section, keeping graduates and actives alike updated on the lives and achievements of Sigma graduates. We are especially proud to feature for you Dick Binnig (’50’s), Carl Coburn (’70’s), Kirby Thompson (’80’s), and Ted Winders and Marty Keough (’00’s) who are contributing as part of more recent generations.

Further, I hope you will enjoy reading about our 12 spring pledges, reports by our new Purple Legionnaire Nate Dreyfuss ’10, and new Wittenberg Greek Life Director Carol Preston, as well as a “Treasure from the Past”, a letter written by Sigma co-founder William L. Guard that appeared in a Sig Fiji newsletter in 1949.

Last, but not least, you will find an invitation to the 127th anniversary Norris Pig Dinner, which will be combined with the Golf Outing this year and held on Saturday April 9th at Graduate Brother Dan D’Arrigo’s (’77) Windy Knoll Country Club in Springfield.

Once again, enjoy the newsletter!

Perge!

Martin Brahier ’13

---

Brothers, now that 2010 has come and gone, a new year is upon us here at Sigma chapter! I speak on behalf of all the new Cabinet when I say that we are extremely excited and honored to be in the positions we are. We recognize the illustrious history of this chapter of Phi Gamma Delta, and appreciate the opportunity we have been given to promote its future growth.

This semester, thanks in large part to the hard work by the recruitment team of Chris Grasse (’12) and Nick Ludwig (’13), we are proud to welcome a dozen new pledges to the house. Among them, we see men with strong character who we are proud to call brothers. They include athletes and other prominent figures of the freshman class, and we believe that they will prove to be great additions to the chapter.

I look forward to the many events that Sigma chapter has planned for this semester. Obviously, the most prominent of these are the annual Frank Norris Pig Dinner, coupled with the Father/Son golf outing. The chance to get to know more of the Graduate Brothers is always a welcomed experience, and it will be interesting to see how the two events work now that they are on the same day. In any case, they will certainly promote the brotherhood that we strive for. In addition to these, we also have our Fiji 3-on-3 basketball philanthropy, which is a great way to not only give back to the community, but also engage the rest of the Wittenberg community.

As president, I feel that the chapter is in a very solid place right now. With the chapter size growing this semester and the events we are planning, I think that Sigma chapter will continue its strong presence on campus! I hope all of you can join us in April for the Pig Dinner and golf outing! Perge!

Fraternally,

Sam Archibald ’13

---

Recruitment has always been a top priority at Sigma chapter. Nick Ludwig (’13) and I have utilized a number of time-tested strategies, as well as a few new ones to recruit this year’s class. We essentially started the recruiting process really early in the fall semester, bringing as many freshmen to the house as possible and getting them introduced to the brothers. From our contacts, we established a database via Google Documents so that all the other actives could add prospects and leave comments. The steak preference dinner and free Chipotle dinner proved successful, as always. Unfortunately, a large proportion of Rushees turned out to be ineligible due to grade requirements (most got above the required 2.25 but took only three classes, in which case a 2.75 is required). Nevertheless, we are proud to present you the following 12 quality men wearing the white star.

---

By Chris Grasse ’12

Recruitment has always been a top priority at Sigma chapter. Nick Ludwig (’13) and I have utilized a number of time-tested strategies, as well as a few new ones to recruit this year’s class. We essentially started the recruiting process really early in the fall semester, bringing as many freshmen to the house as possible and getting them introduced to the brothers. From our contacts, we established a database via Google Documents so that all the other actives could add prospects and leave comments. The steak preference dinner and free Chipotle dinner proved successful, as always. Unfortunately, a large proportion of Rushees turned out to be ineligible due to grade requirements (most got above the required 2.25 but took only three classes, in which case a 2.75 is required). Nevertheless, we are proud to present you the following 12 quality men wearing the white star.
Matthew Douglas Powell - Troy, OH - Business

Coming into college, I never thought that I would be pledging a fraternity. I came to Wittenberg to play baseball, and I didn’t think that I would have time to join one. I also thought that the baseball guys would be our own fraternity, so to speak. I became friends with Cory Valentine and he introduced me to many of the active brothers of the fraternity. After I met some of the Fiji brothers, I realized there was a distinct difference between a baseball “fraternity” and the Fiji Brothers, and I knew I wanted to be a part of the Fiji Brotherhood.

Kevin Michael Bond - Bexley, OH - Chemistry

I play varsity soccer here at Wittenberg. I am pledging Phi Gamma Delta because they are the best fraternity at Wittenberg. I wasn’t sure whether or not joining a fraternity was something that was going to interest me in my first semester here. But after spending time with the active brothers and around the house, I realized that being in Phi Gamma Delta was like having a second family at Wittenberg. I am very excited to go through this process and hopefully have that second family away from home.

Ivan Ramirez - Chicago, ILL - Economics

I run varsity Track and Field for the Wittenberg team. Greek life was always something that I’ve considered, but never knew too much about. I had a core group of friends during the first semester and felt it was unnecessary. It wasn’t until one of my good friends, Derek Walro, told me he wanted to rush Fiji. I knew a few of the active brothers and decided to join him for the Chipotle dinner at the house. After hearing the active brothers talk so highly about their fraternity and their brothers, I decided this was something I wanted to be a part of! I attended the rest of the Rush events and gladly accepted my bid.

James Ethan Lesinski - Independence, OH - Political Science

Growing up in a small community and graduating from a small high school in Toledo, I came to Wittenberg for the “family feel”, described to me by my sister, a Witt alum. Even though I do not play a varsity sport for Wittenberg, I met various active brothers like Clark Goodman and Cady McKim through my campus job in the Communications Department. After meeting a few more active brothers, it was suggested to me that I gave Fiji a look when the time of formal rush came around. It was during the formal rush events that I met more active brothers and decided that if I were to go Greek, Fiji was the fraternity I wanted to join. During the process of formal rush and my first semester on campus, I had perceived that Fiji brothers were a cut above the rest in their studies, social endeavors, and actions on campus. When bid day came and I found out that I had received a bid to Fiji, my decision was clear and I doubt I will ever regret rushing Fiji for a second.

Andrew Paul Kennedy - Needham, MASS - Psychology

I play club ice hockey for Wittenberg, and hope to continue making it a popular sporting event around campus. I have enjoyed every part of my freshman year, and have never once doubted that Wittenberg University is where I want to spend all my years at college. Joining a fraternity was never a priority of mine, but once I met some of the Fiji men and saw what a great group of guys they were, I decided to give the Greek life a chance and I accepted my bid. Now, after spending time with my pledge class and meeting the rest of the Fiji men, I know I made the right decision.

Michael David Fazio - Upper Arlington, OH - Business

When I first came to Wittenberg, the thought of pledging a fraternity didn’t really cross my mind. However, after hearing only good things about the Greek system here at Wittenberg, I decided to go through the rush process. After the two-week period had ended, I received a bid from Fiji, and accepting it was one of the best decisions I have made in my short time here at Wittenberg. The brothers have welcomed all of us with open arms and it has been a pleasure getting to know all of them better.

Lukas Henry Bohlander - Carmel, IND - Chinese and International Business

I lived in Malaysia for seven years during my early childhood and teen years. I am extremely interested in the Chinese language and culture and the marketing/trade aspects of business. I chose Phi Gamma Delta because I was surprised to learn how close the current brothers are with each other, and that is a bond I am looking to have with people on Wittenberg University’s campus. I am extremely happy that I opened my eyes and views to learning about a fraternity. I received a bid, and am very happy I decided to take it.
I am the only child of Jon and Darlene Walro. I play varsity soccer here at Wittenberg. I decided to pledge Phi Gamma Delta because of the positive role that the Brothers of the fraternity have on campus and in the community.

**Tyler Douglas Strong - Louisville, KY - History**

I am currently playing tennis for the men’s tennis team here at Wittenberg, and am very excited for this upcoming season. I also have the privilege of playing first-court doubles with active brother Bobby Fisher. My first semester was successful as I achieved a 3.0 grade point average, which I am looking to improve upon this semester. I am even more excited to be pledging Phi Gamma Delta this semester as I have already met some awesome brothers in the house and the solid group of pledge brothers. The main reason I decided to pledge Fiji is the brotherhood. I spent a good amount of time at the house during the first semester, and really enjoyed being around the brothers and found that I have a lot in common with them. I look forward to the rest of the pledge process and hope to continue to grow closer with my pledge brothers as well as the active brothers in the house. My goal is to keep an open mind and enjoy this process to the fullest, because this is something I’ll never be able to do again in my life.

**Zach White - Lima, OH - Biology**

I moved to Ohio when I was 12 years old from Las Vegas, Nevada, and it has been a whole new experience. I play soccer for Wittenberg and I am a freshman. I plan on majoring in Biology and really hope to get through the challenging prerequisite courses. My freshman year at Wittenberg has been a blast. I never even considered joining a fraternity until I met some of the soccer upperclassmen who are Fijis early in the season and heard them talking about how much fun they have with the other active brothers. I was confronted by a few brothers of the house from the soccer team who told me all about Fiji and the advantages of joining a fraternity. They encouraged me to go through the process of rushing, but I did not know anything about it. I had no previous knowledge of rushing, pledging, etc. I looked up all of these terms on the Internet and decided to give Fiji a shot. There was no doubt in my mind Fiji would be my top choice. I got a bid and my choice was a good one.

**Nathaniel Lee Hays - Gahanna, OH - Biology**

I came to Wittenberg to play lacrosse, and when I decided that college lacrosse was not really for me, I began questioning where I really fit
Thanksgiving Dinner Benefits St. John’s Food Bank

By Martin Brahier ‘13

On November 11th, the brothers hosted a very successful Thanksgiving Dinner at 20 West. The event was a great way to be hospitable to the Wittenberg community while raising money for a good cause. Almost 400 members of the faculty and student body attended the event, raising over $1000 for the Springfield St. John’s Food Bank. Many parents of active brothers donated desserts and volunteered to operate the buffet and help with the setup. “I was pleased and surprised by the support of all the parents and the attendance of almost all other Greek students. This really shows how closely-knit our community is here at Wittenberg,” says brother Chad Downing ‘13. Philanthropy continues to remain a key pillar as part of Sigma’s presence on campus and within the community, and we hope to only further establish this reputation through the Golf outing and Pig Dinner.

Annual Sigma Chapter Moms’ February Dinner Was A Huge Success

By Augustus Domenick ‘13

On Saturday, February 19th, Sigma Chapter held its annual Moms’ Dinner to show appreciation to Fiji Moms. As people arrived, their picture was taken by renowned Fiji photographer Dmitry Kogan from Krasnodar, Russia. A surprise was in store for the attendees when Wittenberg’s female a-cappella group “Just Eve” serenaded the Moms with a few cleverly chosen love songs. A wonderful meal followed, prepared by the Sigma Cook, Cat, her mom, and her two lovely sisters. The chicken was superb, but it was quickly overshadowed by the dessert which consisted of rich brownies and decadent chocolate-covered strawberries. The evening concluded with Mothers and sons decorating picture frames for the photographs taken with their sons earlier. After the dinner, those of-age walked from Wittenberg’s finest water-front fraternity to Springfield’s finest waterfront pub, Station One, to celebrate this joyous occasion. The dinner was a great success!
PURPLE LEGIONNAIRE’S REPORT

I imagine what most readers of a Purple Legionnaire’s Report would like to hear is an honest assessment of the chapter from a graduate’s perspective. Luckily, my report can be as honestly positive as I would have hoped.

To start, our reputation on campus is strong. After talking with Wittenberg’s Greek Life Director, professors, and administration, and getting an impression from our new pledges, I am proud to say that Sigma today appears both well-rounded and respected on Wittenberg’s campus.

Unfortunately, Greek Life as a whole has not shared the same positive spotlight in the last few years, especially since the Delta Sigma Phis and our oft-beloved neighbors, the Chi Omegas, both had their charters revoked merely two years ago. In a positive turn, however, the new Greek Life Director, Carol Preston, in conjunction with the IFC and Wittenberg Administration, are committed to bringing a new men’s fraternity to campus. IHQ’s policy on expansion is that fraternal competition brings out the best in our men, and I wholeheartedly agree. I’m sure today’s sophomores and juniors look forward to the coming challenge, whenever it may arrive. It will surely make our Campus, Greek Life, and Chapter, stronger.

As for the chapter’s operations, they are certainly strong, but there is, as ever, room for improvement.

The chapter’s recruitment effort was, in a word, great. It was easily the most organized and thorough effort I have seen out of our chapter since I became a member. Some may regard the class of 12, whose bios are herein contained, as smaller than we may have hoped, but it bodes well for informal recruitment in the fall, and the practices adopted during this recruitment period will surely set the chapter up for great things in the future.

Finances, Risk Management, and Scholarship are all good, and will allow the chapter to apply for the Alcohol-Free Housing Exemption again, which, pending completion of all the requirements, should be maintained for the third consecutive year.

From my perspective, the main area in need of improvement is in Graduate Relations and involvement. A perennial wish and something the chapter is working to develop. Suggestions are always appreciated, and from what I’ve heard from your Sig Fiji editor, Martin Brahier, the response for his rebirth of the “Fiji Grapevine” section has been a good start!

Of all Purple Legionnaires in Phi Gama Delta, I may have had the biggest shoes to fill upon Marcus Hitt leaving for the confines of academia and family life. Unfortunately, I may also have the shortest stint in the role of anyone across the country. In the fall, the possibility (even likelihood) exists that I will be attending law school out east, in which case, I will not be able to carry on my duties as the Purple Legionnaire any longer. To that end, I would extend a call to all interested parties to contact me or anyone on the SFAA to register your interest. I will tell you from my brief time in the position that it is a thoroughly rewarding way to give back to the chapter, and if you have so much as the inkling that it may be your calling come the fall, please speak up! Sigma Chapter needs you!

If you have any questions, comments, concerns or, of course, said inkling, do not hesitate to call or email me at: 313-909-6746; natedreyfuss@gmail.com

Best Regards and Always Proud,
Nate Dreyfuss ’10

PLEDGE BIOS

The chapter’s recruitment effort was, in a word, great. It was easily the most organized and thorough effort I have seen out of our chapter since I became a member. Some may regard the class of 12, whose bios are herein contained, as smaller than we may have hoped, but it bodes well for informal recruitment in the fall, and the practices adopted during this recruitment period will surely set the chapter up for great things in the future.

Sigma’s Leaders Attend the 36th Fiji Academy in St. Louis

The 2011 Fiji Academy also provided a chance for the brothers to learn more about their specific duties in the chapter by attending their officer-track seminars during the day. All of the new Cabinet was represented in their respective positions, as well as brothers Grasse and Ludwig in the Recruitment track. Many topics were covered in the tracks, such as how to ensure that the chapter acts frugally, how to avoid risk management problems, and effectively utilize public relation skills.

In addition to the formal sessions, there were plenty of opportunities to get to meet brothers from other chapters. The Sigma brothers met and spent time with brothers from Miami University (OH), University of Arkansas, and Purdue. The International Fraternity also paid for tickets to a Columbus Blue Jackets vs. New York Rangers hockey game, which was a blast! All in all, the 2011 Academy was a very beneficial experience for those who attended, and we appreciate the funding we received from the Gram Foundation to be able to make the trip!
The Fijiland News Ticker

**Break-in:** In the night of the 9th of January, while only few of the brothers had returned, a burglar entered the back lounge breaking a window and stole the video projector and receiver from the projector room. The Wittenberg Police and Security has thus far been unable to find the delinquent or recover any of the stolen equipment. Both projector and receiver have been replaced.

**Mold:** Apex will still do a number of adjustments to sustainably ban mold from re-occurring in the basement. The plans are to convert the area, now an empty space, into a study room over the summer.

**Scholarship:** The Sigma brothers continued to excel at their academic endeavors this past fall, achieving a chapter GPA of 2.937. Despite this small decline compared to last spring semester, Sigma is remaining well above the Wittenberg all-men’s average (AMA) and the brothers continue to strive to improve over the course of this spring of 2011. This is the 9th consecutive semester above the AMA!

**Philanthropy:** Apart from the Thanksgiving Dinner (featured article in this issue), the brothers participated in a campus cleanup (fundraiser for the St. John’s Food bank), Up ‘til Dawn (benefiting St. Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital), as well as Distance to Dreams, (a fundraiser to send a little girl from Springfield who is suffering from Sickle-cell disease to Disneyworld).

**Intramurals:** The brothers are represented in every sport, recently winning the highly competitive indoor soccer championship. This season, the Fiji teams are undefeated, championship-favorites in the key disciplines of 5-on-5 Basketball and Dodgeball.

**Campus Leadership:** Brothers Nicholas Ludwig and Chad Downing (both ’13) have been elected to the executive board of the Inter Fraternity Council (IFC), serving in the distinguished positions of Treasurer and Chief Recruitment Chair.

**STATE OF GREEK LIFE**

When asked to provide a brief summary on the current “state of Greek Life” at Wittenberg, I was honored to have the opportunity to reach out to graduates of the Sigma chapter, an organization that has welcomed me wholeheartedly into this exceptional community. I began working at Wittenberg University in July 2010, replacing Casey Stevens who now serves as an Associate Dean of Students and is my direct supervisor. Building on much of the work that Casey has done to advance the fraternity and sorority community, Witt has given me a renewed sense of pride in my chosen field while working with these students and all those who support them.

Wittenberg’s fraternity and sorority community has had some trials in the past few years, but is only growing stronger as a result. Fall fraternity recruitment showed little increase (though no decrease) in the number of men joining fraternities (21 in fall 2010 vs. 20 in fall 2009). Retention, however, was excellent with 90% of new members retained. Spring recruitment is another story – the number of men joining fraternities is 21% higher this year than last (58 in spring 2010, 48 in spring 2009), 13 of those joining Fiji. Sorority recruitment is up by 4% so far (107 in spring 2011, 103 in spring 2010) and some chapters are continuing to recruit. Though overall number of members in the community remains relatively similar to previous years, I foresee growth of the community in the coming year.

For the eighth year straight, the all-fraternity/sorority GPA has exceeded the all-campus GPA. This is a major point of pride for our community. Greek students at Witt continue to hold many of the campus’ top leadership positions as well including 55% of Residence Assistants and nearly all Student Senate officers. Fiji is no exception, with multiple members serving in these roles and others. Exemplary involvement in the greater community has also thrived; philanthropic donations and hours served to community organizations are constantly being reported.

In my short time at Wittenberg, I have had the pleasure to become well acquainted with many of the Sigma Chapter undergraduate and graduate brothers. I have worked with Fiji men at my two previous institutions, and greatly value the relationships built with men of those chapters and with the International Fraternity; I expect no less from Sigma Chapter and believe those relationships have begun to positively develop. I look forward to a continued success from Sigma Chapter and would love to meet with any graduate brothers whenever you are in Springfield.

*Carol Preston*

Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life
After several years of discussion, the Sig Fiji Alumni Association (SFAA) and the undergraduate Sigma Chapter have elected to combine the annual Norris Pig Dinner with the annual Golf Outing on the same day! Our goal is preserve the integrity and tradition of our annual Norris Pig Dinner, while also supporting the Golf Outing and its designated charity. So, you can attend one or the other, or both! Please use the RSVP form contained in this issue, or the one we recently mailed to you, to register. Here is a complete schedule of the weekend’s events:

**FRIDAY, APRIL 8TH**
All Day
Open House at the Chapter – Stop by the House for a Tour from Undergraduates!

**SATURDAY, APRIL 9TH**
9:30 am
Annual Meeting of the Sig Fiji Alumni Association Board of Trustees (All Graduate Brothers are welcome to attend!)

12:00 pm
Informal Buffet Luncheon (for non-golfers) – Chapter House – Free!

12:00 pm
(Optional) Lunch for Golfers at Windy Knoll Golf Club – Cash Order from Menu

1:30 pm
(Optional) Annual Golf Outing at Windy Knoll Golf Club – Shotgun Start!

6:30 pm
Pig Dinner Fellowship Cocktail Hour/Cash Bar: Windy Knoll Golf Club

7:30 pm
127th Anniversary Norris Pig Dinner: Windy Knoll Golf Club

**SUNDAY, APRIL 10TH**
11:00 am
BROTHERS-ONLY: Formal Chapter Meeting – Memorial Service for Graduate Members

12:00 pm
Open House at the Chapter – Stop by the House for a Tour from Undergraduates!

Our keynote speaker for the Pig Dinner will be John Tafaro (’76), who is currently the president of Chatfield College in the Cincinnati area. The Rev. Bill Diehm (’77) will be the Symposiarch (Master of Ceremonies). The Pig Dinner will be held this year at Windy Knoll Golf Club: 500 Roscommon Drive, Springfield, OH 45503; www.windyknollgolfclub.com – 937.390.8898.

The annual Golf Outing this year will be held at Windy Knoll Golf Club in Springfield, and net proceeds from the event will benefit the Childrens Rescue Center in Springfield. The Center operates three afterschool daycare programs (“The Ark”) for economically disadvantaged families, as well as an afterschool program for junior and high school students, “The Rock”, and a food pantry. Many Brothers of Sigma chapter, as well as other Wittenberg students, have fulfilled their community service requirements at one of the Center’s five locations, and we can assure you that donations are not just appreciated, but much in need and always well-used. For more information visit their website at http://www.childrensrescuecenter.com/About_Us.html

If you would like to support the Golf Outing by becoming a sponsor or advertiser, please see the adjacent article about options beginning as low as $200. Thank you in advance for your support!

Finally, we’re trying something NEW this year by holding a Brothers-only, formal ritual meeting on Sunday, April 10th, in the form of an annual memorial service for Graduate Brothers. We realize that many of Sigma’s Graduate Brothers have not attended a formal chapter meeting since they graduated, so we’d welcome the opportunity for you to join us on Sunday, April 10th, at 11:00 am at the chapter house. We’re not sure, frankly, how many may be interested in this, but we’ll hold it in any event if only one Graduate Brother would like to attend!
Please support our Annual Golf Outing!

Whether or not you can attend and participate in our annual Golf Outing on Saturday, April 9th, we invite and encourage you to support Sigma Chapter and its designated philanthropy this year: Childrens Rescue Center in Springfield!

This year marks the anniversary for the following Sigma Chapter graduating classes:

- 1966 (45 years)
- 1971 (40 years)
- 1976 (35 years)
- 1981 (30 years)
- 1986 (25 years)
- 1991 (20 years)
- 1996 (15 years)
- 2001 (10 years)

This annual event has been supported by many Brothers who have gathered to renew friendships and raise money for local charities. The 2011 Fiji Golf Scramble raises money through the following:

1. Norris Pig Dinner Placemat Sponsorships starting at $200 (your logo featured)
2. Silent Auction Donations
3. Cash Donations

The Norris Pig Dinner placemat will be used at each dinner table place setting. Due to the size of the placemat, this sponsorship will be limited to 18 participants (see sample).

The Silent Auction provides the greatest opportunity to raise money for our cause. Some examples of donations are:

- Vacation Homes/Time Shares
- Tickets to Sporting Events
- Weekend Getaways
- Merchandise
- Golf Packages

The auction items will be placed on the Windy Knoll Web Site to give you an opportunity to bid on the items if you are unable to attend the event. The auction will close at 6:45 PM on Saturday evening, April 9th.

If you have an interest in becoming a Placemat Sponsor and/or Silent Auction contributor, please contact Martin Brahier at s13.mbrahier@wittenberg.edu. All sponsors and contributors will be recognized in an upcoming issue of the Sig Fiji newsletter. We look forward to hearing from you.
Sigma Chapter of Phi Gamma Delta

2010 Graduate Donors to the Sig Fiji Alumni Association (SFAA)

(as of 12/31/10, total raised = $4,490)
** indicates a donation of $500 or more
* indicates a donation of $100 to $499
75 Graduate Brothers donated as of 12/31/10

Thank you to the following Sig Fiji Graduate Brothers who donated in 2010! Our 2011 fundraising campaign is currently underway, so please send your check payable to “Sig Fiji Alumni Association” to:
Skip Buckley, SFAA Secretary, 114 Center Road, Streamwood, IL 60107.

Ed Lamb 1935
William Frick* 1936
Stanley Wood 1946
Fred Martin 1948
Dean Shaffer 1948
William Harris* 1948
John Moeller 1950
Frank Parker 1950
Dick Binnig 1950
Bertrand Trompeter* 1950
Harry Cross 1951
Paul Riehm** 1951
Mike Alb 1954
Richard Neal 1954
Ted Marty 1957
Arthur Kowunehoven 1958
Richard Veler 1958
Dale Finley 1958
Jack Neal 1959
David Truckess 1959
Rodney Borcherdin 1959
Jon Joyce 1959
Wayne Rhodes 1960
John Helgerson* 1960
Dick Rice* 1960
Richard Keier* 1961
Gil Belles 1962
Noel Hupp 1962
William MacAdam 1963
David Moeller 1963
G. David K. Hopper* 1963
Paul Lingle* 1963
Lynn Carlton 1964
Bill Steinbrink* 1964
David Steckler 1966
David Hammond 1968
Dave Baines 1969
Dean DeMattio 1969
Richard Danko 1970
Austin Adams 1970
Jeffrey Palker 1972
Richard Fowler 1973
John Halley 1974
Harry Macnealy 1974
Peter Welsh 1974
Robert Weible* 1975
John Tafaro 1976
Peter Woessner* 1976
David Miles 1977
Douglas Myer 1977
Carl Coburn 1977
Bradley Rechel 1978
Bob Hunsaker 1978
Skip Buckley** 1980
Chuck Dix 1981
Paul Nowakowski 1983
John Gork 1984
Robert Blakey 1985
Tom Meyer 1986
Mike Redinger 1986
John Bourne 1988
Shawn Lowry 1988
Matt Blatchford 1990
Andy Burns 1991
Forest Driggs 1991
Paul Feaser 1996
Mike Reisinger 1998
David Atkins 2000
Wes Petzinger 2000
Shawn Martin 2003
Chris Farris 2003
Jesse Hitt 2007
Jon Felter 2008
James Hunter 2009
Andy Lamb 2011

Visit the SFAA Blog at http://sigfiji.blogspot.com
A Letter from One of Sigma’s Founders

Found among a treasure trove of items recently sent to Sigma Chapter (see page 1 article, “Treasures from the Past”) was the October 1949 Sig Fiji newsletter, which included a rare glimpse by one of Sigma Founders, William L. Guard. His article is reproduced here:

James “Jock” Arthur ’58 is currently in Kula Kupur, Malaysia traveling as host for small group. He had a truly remarkable encounter: “The other day I was in a food court in Kula Lumpur Malaysia, eating noodles or something I’m not 100% sure of, but it set ok. At another counter was a guy with a huge Phi Gamma Delta on the back of his black tee shirt. I went over to him and said ‘I’m a Wittenberg Phi Gam and I’m going to buy your lunch!’ They turned out to be two Phi Gams from Drake University in Iowa. They graduated last year and are working in China this year, touring Malaysia while on a break. I have run into Phi Gams a number of times around the world, this the most recent. They’re great young men, they came over to our table and asked to get a picture of the three of us. Neat...don’t you think?”

Bill Martin, current Phi Gamma Delta Executive Director (Mississippi State 1975), explained in an email that “it appears that the brothers you met are Jay Benson and Eric Biddulph. I am not surprised that they made a good impression. That is typical of our Drake Chapter and most chapters for that matter.”

Eric B. Westendorf ’92 moved from OC, California to Seattle, Washington, in 2004 to lead an effort for a Chicago-based asset management firm, running the Pacific Northwest division. He is still in that role today. Currently he is training for his 7th Ironman Triathlon. In his free time he climbs mountains (Tanzania’s Mount Kilimanjaro last October with his dad), cross-country skis, competing in Sweden’s Vasaloppet last March, and runs marathons (Honolulu last Dec was his 23rd). He also runs a not-for-profit foundation benefiting a school for disadvantaged youth in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Up to this day he is keeping in touch with Chris Ratchford ’92, Adam Kaufman ’93, Geoff Pinney ’92, Jeff Gacioone ’93, Jim Klenke ’95, and Jeff Smith ’92. Brother Eric can be contacted at qr2axe@yahoo.com.

John Marshausen ’93 is currently the Superintendent of the Loveland City School District in the Cincinnati Area. He earned his Ph.D. in 2005 and has served as a superintendent, high school principal, athletic director, social studies teacher, and coach at several Ohio districts. John is married and has two beautiful daughters, ages 12 and 8. John’s wife, Susan, is also in education as an elementary school teacher.

If you would like to appear in the “Fiji Grapevine” section, please send any information to Martin Brahier ’13 at mbbrhier@gmail.com or via mail to 20 West Ferncliff Place, Springfield, OH 45504.
Safe Combination: One Last Try

Can anyone remember the combination for the old green safe on the second floor landing next to the Treasurer’s desk? There have been multiple attempts to retain the code – this is the final one. If this attempt is unsuccessful, we will probably have it opened at the beginning of the Fall Semester of 2011. If you have the code, please send it to mbbrahir@gmail.com. Also, feel free to have a go at it while in Springfield for Pig Dinner and Golf.

Phil Bambach ’11 Ends Stellar Swimming Career at Witt

Senior Brother Philip Bambach ended his highly successful collegiate swimming career in February. Just recently he was a top-24 finalist at North Coast Athletic Conference in the 200-yard breaststroke, 200-yard individual medley, and the 400-yard individual medley. He was also the breaststroker on Wittenberg’s fastest 200-yard medley relay. His parents came for a ceremony honoring the seniors at their last home meet. Congratulations, Brother Bambach!

Don’t Become A “Lost Brother”

Have you recently moved? Changed your email address? Are you still receiving fraternity mail forwarded to you from your parents? Don’t become a “Lost Brother” – the name we attach to those Sigma Graduate Brothers for whom we have no accurate mailing address!

Sigma Chapter relies on up-to-date records from our International Fraternity headquarters office in Lexington, Kentucky, so please update your contact information as necessary by:

• Email: Send to phigam@phigam.org (include your graduation year)
• Mail: Send to Phi Gamma Delta, PO Box 4599, Lexington, KY 40544-4599

A Trip to the Final Four

This past spring, I was given the opportunity to compete for an Undergraduate Archon position, which is held at the highest levels of our International Fraternity headquarters in Lexington. My push to be appointed started by Graduate Brother Skip Buckley nominating me in May. After being nominated, I didn’t really hear any news until early July. It was a long two months of waiting, as you can imagine. By July I had already moved to Colorado for the summer. However, one early morning I received a phone call from Bill Martin, the Executive Director of the great Fraternity. He explained to me that I had been chosen as one of the four finalists for the Undergraduate Archon position. We then set up a time for me to be interviewed via conference call. A few weeks later I had my interview with the selection committee, which went very well. A few days later, Brother Martin called me to inform me that another candidate had been chosen for the position. Although I was not appointed to the position, I am grateful for being rewarded the opportunity. It is not every day that I get a chance to talk to some of the top men of Phi Gamma Delta. The young man selected for the position is highly qualified and deserves the position. I am positive he will serve Phi Gamma Delta with pride and achieve many valuable goals for the Fraternity.

Marcus William Hitt
Class of 2005 • Covington, Ohio
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 BINNIG (SIGMA ‘50)

1. I graduated from Wittenberg in 1950. Following service, during the Korean Conflict, as an officer in the Air Force Medical Service Corps, I obtained a graduate degree and pursued a career in Hospital Administration from which I am now retired and living in Florida.

2. There are several memorable experiences, but I would have to say that the most significant was the completion of pledge training and being initiated as an Active member of Sigma of Phi Gamma Delta.

3. Several times since graduation, either through work or social activities, I have had the opportunity to meet graduate Fijis from other chapters and it has always been a satisfying experience to recognize our Brotherhood. Sigma Chapter provided the opportunity to associate with and learn from young men from different backgrounds and experiences. This was helpful in handling subsequent interpersonal relationships.

4. Since I grew up in Springfield, being a “townie”, I didn’t live in the Fiji House which was then at 809 N. Fountain. Although I spent a considerable amount of time at the House (almost every day), I think I missed something by not living there.

Kirby Thompson (Sigma ‘81)

1. It doesn’t seem possible that it’s been nearly 30 years since I graduated in June of 1981. My wife Julie (Delta Gamma ‘81) and I have three wonderful sons. Kyle is married and is a commercial lender in Corpus Christie, Texas. Nick is coaching football at Grand Valley State University and pursuing his MBA. Andrew is a sophomore at Indiana University. Much of our last 20 years has been spent following their athletic endeavors at both East Grand Rapids High School and Denison University. Professionally I am involved in a distribution company with 27 warehouses spread throughout Michigan, Wisconsin, Indiana, and Florida. Julie and I split our time between Grand Rapids, Michigan, and Marco Island, Florida.

2. It is very difficult to list just one memorable experience at the Fiji house. It is more a collection of great memories. Maybe the most unusual memory is of Brother Ed Estok (’80) announcing a week...
Where Are They Now?

-CONTINUED FROM PAGE THIRTEEN-

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?

Ted Winders (Sigma ’10)

1. I graduated last year in May, 2010. I currently work for TD Ameritrade as an Options and Commodity Futures broker in Chicago.

2. When we received the Purple Pilgrim during pledging. Learning about all the notable Phi Gams and the rich history of our Brotherhood was unforgettable. To realize that our organization has existed for so long, coupled with being accepted into one of the oldest chapters in the nation was very humbling.

Ted Winders (Sigma ’10)

3. Both being in the fraternity and being on Cabinet taught me valuable social skills. Each requires you to interact with others in both an organizational aspect or simply on a person-to-person basis. Choosing to join the fraternity, you are thrown into a situation where you must interact with people across an interesting social and geographic spectrum. These conditions were a valuable learning experience for the real world where, as a young professional, you need to know how to interact and make conversation with coworkers, superiors, and clients. Events such as the Norris Pig Dinner provide valuable insight on how to behave and interact with individuals at a nice social event. What I took away from these situations is something that is specific to the fraternity environment that provided me a leg up over non-Greeks in the work world.

4. I deeply regret that I did not live in the house at least one year of college. In hindsight, it would have been fun to live with like-minded guys who you are really close with. Throw into the mix daily food preparation, and you can’t beat get a better living situation anywhere on campus.

5. My advice to undergraduate brothers would be to take it all in. Join as many committees as you can, run for Cabinet, show up to the philanthropy events and other meetings. In my current career there is an old saying: “Options give you options.” Taken out of context and put into fraternity life, you don’t want to close any doors to friendship, job opportunities, or general success in college. Keep your options open, be flexible, and take any opportunity that presents itself.

Martin Keough (Sigma ’10)

1. I graduated from Wittenberg in 2010 with majors in Russian & Central Eurasian Studies and Political Science, and a minor in Economics. These days, I am living in Scotland and attending graduate school at the University of Glasgow. My course of study is an 18-month postgraduate program called the International Masters in Russian, Central, & East European Studies, basically a continuation of my interests at Wittenberg. What is most exciting about this program is the “International” component; in August of this year, I will be moving to Almaty to attend The Kazakhstan Institute of Management, Economics and Strategic Research until about April of 2012. Due to a new agreement between the two universities, at the end of this program I will be awarded both a degree in Russian, Central, & East European Studies from the University of Glasgow and a Masters of International Relations from KIMEP. As it...
Where Are They Now?

-CONTINUED FROM PAGE FOURTEEN -

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?

Pledge Educator in the spring of 2010. I will never forget this time as my opportunity to share my passion for Phi Gamma Delta with the formal pledge class in that semester, and sincerely hope that they, too, had as positive an experience as I did. The role of Pledge Educator encouraged me to think hard about what Phi Gamma Delta meant to me, with the ultimate goal of imparting (at risk of sounding too self-inflating) my “wisdom” on the new recruits. Through the process, I learned both a great deal about the new members and myself, and made some great friendships that I expect to be life-long.

3. It was not very long ago that I left Wittenberg University, so in some sense I have no choice to fall back on this cliché, but I honestly don’t believe that my answer will change even decades down the line: what Phi Gamma Delta has meant to me since graduation has been the brotherhood I feel with my fellow Sig Fijis. Even living on another continent, I stay in nearly constant contact with the brothers that I shared my time in Springfield with. Through the wonders of modern technology, I have even been able to get in contact with the new members of Sig Fiji from this year that I had previously never even met. These sorts of contacts, and even the fact that I was asked to respond for this column, do nothing but to solidify in my mind the value of the community I first joined back in the winter of 2008. There are three lessons that I learned from Sigma Chapter. First is to never shrug off someone else’s contribution to a discussion because at first you don’t agree with them. Everyone is coming from a unique position and has something to add, no matter how much at first it may seem unhelpful. Second, never trust Matthew Wickiser, class of 2010. Third, always trust The Wick.

4. If I am forced to defy this saying and have regrets for lost opportunities, the regrets would center on never having run for a Cabinet position during my time at Sigma Chapter. I suppose that it was my intention to do so in my junior year at Wittenberg, but failed to ever realize this because I graduated early. I’m perfectly comfortable with the performance of all the Cabinets during my stay as an Active Brother, but I do have slight regrets for having never seriously tried to take on any of that responsibility when I had the chance.

5. Most importantly, do not be afraid to pursue something outside of your comfort zone. The majority of the most rewarding experiences in my life have been doing things that only a year prior to actually doing them I could have never imagined myself in such a position. Even my brotherhood in Phi Gamma Delta is something that I would have never expected for myself as a senior in high school. Take a class that you don’t know anything about. Travel somewhere that makes you uncomfortable; if you get the chance, study abroad, or take up an internship in a foreign country. Try and meet new people you wouldn’t have expected to be friends with. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the Earth. Finally, live in The Shanty if you get the chance, it’s worth it.

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.
The Sigma Chapter of Phi Gamma Delta at Wittenberg University Invites You to…

Our 127th Anniversary Norris Pig Dinner On Saturday, April 9, 2011

Windy Knoll Golf Club
500 Roscommon Drive, Springfield, OH 45503
www.windyknollgolfclub.com – 937.390.8898

1:30 pm – (Optional) Golf Tournament at Windy Knoll Golf Club
6:30 pm – Pig Dinner Fellowship Cocktail Hour (Cash Bar at Windy Knoll)
7:30 pm – Annual Norris Pig Dinner Banquet (Windy Knoll)
   Keynote Speaker: John Tafaro (Sigma ’76)
   $35 – Pig Dinner: Graduate Brothers/Fathers
   $100 – Golf Outing AND Pig Dinner, $75 Golf Outing ONLY

Sigma of Phi Gamma Delta

RSVP Form & Annual Dues/Ballot

Please complete this form, include your annual dues ($25, $50, $100, $125 or more, if possible!), vote for new SFAA Trustees, and mail it to: Skip Buckley, SFAA Secretary, 114 Center Rd., Streamwood, IL 60107.

Your Name: ____________________________________________ Class Year: ____________
E-Mail Address (if you would like to be added to SigFijiNet): ______________________________________________________

____ Yes! I will be attending the 2011 Pig Dinner on April 9th. _____ No, sorry, I cannot attend this year.
   (Maybe next year, Sigma’s 128th anniversary!)

____ Pig Dinner Reservation:
   ___ Yes, I’m attending and have enclosed my check for $35 (made payable to “Sig Fiji Alumni Association”).
   ___ I am unable to attend the Pig Dinner, but enclosed is my check for $25 to pay for an Undergraduate Brother to attend the Pig Dinner.

____ Golf Outing:
   ___ Yes, I’ll play golf AND attend the Pig Dinner ($100 total)
   ___ Yes, I’ll play golf ONLY, no Pig Dinner ($75/person)

____ Annual Dues: I have enclosed my check for (made payable to “Sig Fiji Alumni Association”) for:
   ___ $100 ___ $50 ___ $25 ___ (other)

---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

NOMINEES FOR THREE-YEAR TERMS ON THE SFAA BOARD OF TRUSTEES (Vote for 11!)

___ Marcus Hitt (2005)  ___ Sigma Chapter Graduating 2011 Senior (to be nominated by the Chapter)