

The Golden Eagle



FIJI



THETA TAU CHAPTER
OF PHI GAMMA

VOLUME 28, No. 2
Fall 2006

25th Annual Pig Dinner







The Golden Eagle Fiji



Summer 2006

THETA TAU

VOLUME 28 No. 2

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Graduate Brothers,

First, I would like to thank the many graduates who attended our 25th Pig Dinner and helped make it a success. I hope this year's Pig Dinner was just a taste of great many to come. To the graduates who could not make it this year, I am sorry scheduling did not work out and I hope you will be able to attend future Pig Dinners.

Since Pig Dinner, graduate involvement has grown to a new high. Several brothers have taken interest in the new Tech Fiji Alumni Association and filled positions within Tech Fiji Inc. The chapter has been honored to have graduates come to our annual Black Diamond car show that benefits M.S. I am constantly receiving emails from graduate brothers wanting to know how they can help the undergraduate chapter. A few graduates have even returned to campus and are reacquainting themselves with the newer brothers. I am looking forward to seeing graduate brothers get more involved and to take some time to help the chapter with the coming fall recruitment.

This past Spring semester all the members of our Beta Lambda pledge class successfully completed the pledge program and are now serving the chapter as new brothers. They also obtained a 3.185 GPA, showing they are able to strive for excellence along side the rest of the chapter. This Fall we hope to achieve the same rate of success with our pledge program and continue to impress our values and principles upon them.

The undergraduate chapter is on a string of success and is ready to continue it as long as possible. The chapter's fall recruitment is already off to a good start and has the potential to be great. The undergraduate brothers are also preparing to defend our seat as TTU's top fraternity by repeating our success in both Homecoming Activities and All Sports Champions. Already the chapter is off to a great start, in the first week of school we won \$200 for participation in a campus wide volleyball tournament, falling just short of the tournament finals.

The chapter is showing great enthusiasm for our upcoming semester that will include Rush, Fiji Islander, Homecoming and many other brotherhood activities. I invite and welcome all graduates to attend any or all of our chapter events. The chapter is entering into an exciting time and heading for a promising future. I want all brothers of this chapter, both undergraduate and graduate, to have a part in whatever glory we find. Take pride in what our great chapter has accomplished and remember Phi Gamma Delta is not for college days alone!

Fraternally,

Bo Byers

Perge'

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Fall Rush*
- *25th Pig Dinner*
- *158th Ekklesia*
- *Scholarship Update*
- *Athletic Update*
- *Highlighted Graduates*
- *TFI Uptdated*



Bo Byers President 2006

25TH ANNUAL PIG DINNER

The twenty-fifth annual Frank Norris Pig Dinner was a great success. We had the highest turn out of any other pig dinner with an attendance of two-hundred and six people, one-hundred and five of those being graduates, also a Pig Dinner record, the rest being undergrads and the brothers' dates, which really made the occasion that much more special. We were also graced by the presence of the Executive Director of the International Fraternity, Bill Martin. He was a great guest to have because he remembered attending the receiving of our charter in 1981.

Since it was the twenty-fifth anniversary of becoming a chartered chapter, forty-nine brothers received their Silver Owls awards in recognition of being a brother in Phi Gamma Delta for twenty-five years. Eleven brothers personally attended. The 2006 recipients are the first group of brothers from our chapter to receive the award that will be continually given out each Pig Dinner from here on out. For those of you that missed this year's Pig Dinner, or know that your twenty-fifth anniversary of being a brother is coming up, make sure to make it to that Pig Dinner. Another special recognition was given to our chapter's first Father-Son legacy. Dan and Will Crunk were recognized and received into the Sire and Son Society, which honors father and

son Phi Gams. The house corporation, TFI, made its final payment directly to Bill Martin during Pig Dinner this year which means that the house now belongs to the Fraternity, and house payments are now going to go toward the building of a new house somewhere near campus. TFI also had a meeting over Pig Dinner weekend to talk about the location of a possible new house, ways graduates can donate money easily and open leadership positions in the organization. For more information check out the TFI article or go to www.ttufiji.com/tfi.

Go ahead and start planning for the Twenty-Sixth Annual Pig Dinner next year April 21, 2007. To make sure to have a really good time, invite all of your pledge brothers.



Graduate Lee Wray speaks about the 25th Anniversary with his fellow Silver Owl Recipients

PICTURES FROM 25 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE



GRADUATE SPOTLIGHT

JASON HOLIWAY '99

Hello, brothers! Greetings from Jefferson City. I know, not as exciting a place to write from as Iraq or some other places, but it's where I'm at.

I left Fiji Land in January 2000 with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering. Though on the eight-year program, I'm proud to say I graduated a semester early. I moved eastward and found a job as a Mechanical Designer for Hodge Engineering Company in Knoxville, TN. As a company we do building design work for architects, business owners, school systems, and developers. My job is to do HVAC, plumbing and sprinkler design. Since then I've attained my Professional Engineering license and have been putting my stamp of approval on plans since January 2005. It's a job I enjoy doing, and I get a proud feeling when I can drive around town and see completed projects I've had a hand in working on.

Not long after moving back home, I found my true love, Heather. She's a kindergarten teacher at New Market Elementary. It's funny how life turns out sometimes. When I came to school in Cookeville, I swore I'd never be back to live in Jefferson County. I had no idea the place I'd want to stay forever and the person I'd want to spend forever with were there waiting for me. We married in June 2002, bought a house, and settled in to really get to know each other. — Hey, get your mind out of the gutter. I didn't mean just the physical stuff. — A word of

advice to any newlyweds out there. No matter how much overtime you have to put in at work and how little you might be seeing your new bride because of it, never, ever say "What's up, roomy?" as your paths barely cross for the only time that day. Humor doesn't help in that situation.

Despite a steep learning curve on my part, marriage has been great! I think everyone should try it at least once. Two years after marriage, Heather gave birth to our only child, Elijah. What a blessing he has been. The first five days were a little rough. After having a seizure from a sub-arachnoid hemorrhage, he was placed in Children's Hospital for observation and care. Never a place you want to go to, but if you have to, there's no other place I'd want my child to be. They are outstanding.

The responses and love you get from a child are truly amazing. I have a feeling Elijah will be going into business, brokering high dollar deals. Whenever someone else has a toy he wants to play with, he doesn't just take it away. Instead he brings you something else and convinces you that you want that instead, and makes a trade. At just over two years old, he's already speaking in full sentences, has two girlfriends at church, and is doing long division. He also knows that his favorite color is to be orange and he will be learning how to play linebacker, as he gets older.

"THE EVENTS
MAKE GOOD
STORIES, BUT THE
TIME IS WHAT
MAKES GOOD
FRIENDS."

As a family, we stay pretty busy. We are involved in our church; Heather teaches 1st and 2nd grade Sunday School and I teach a Bible study on Sunday nights. I also help out our Youth Minister on Wednesday nights.

On free weekends, especially during the summer, we like to camp. We've got a group of friends that we'll get with and head off to a nice, out of the way location. It's tough having to sit in a lawn chair all morning, play in the pool all afternoon, and grill out steaks and chicken several nights in a row, but we manage.

I enjoyed some crazy days, to be sure, during my times at Tech. Island weekends, the Wine Cellar, bringing down the goalposts after the win over MTSUX, and catching up on a brother's latest brush with the law. Porch parties, the Boone's Farm game, Fountain Day, and the Apathy Committee. The Lounge, the midnight trip to Lexington, and the trip to Knoxville for the Florida game w/ Ben (not to mention the trip back). Going to eat at a restaurant with Fiji cooks and always getting "a piece o' toast" with the meal, the TKE Christmas lights, and being part of the two best pledge classes Theta Tau has ever seen. — AK, AL rule! - These are some of the events I remember about my days at Tech.

I was never the chapter leader or a student representative around campus. But to become those aren't the reasons I joined Phi Gamma Delta. I joined for what I gave and what I got.

People I could hang with to get the most enjoyment I could squeeze out of my time at school. Through the ups and downs of college life, I was never lonely or alone. And if it hadn't been for a couple brothers, it never would have been. So a special thanks to Grooms for being my friend before I even pledged, to Brad Dozier for showing what brotherhood meant when you picked me up after that car accident right before rush, and to Ben Clark for not making grades the first time so I'd have somebody to pledge with the second time myself. It's friends like these and the time we spent together I remember most. The events make good stories, but the time is what makes good friends. And even with 7 ½ years, the time is over before you know it. Spend it wisely.

Perge'

Brother Jason "Radar" Holiway '99



FALL RUSH 2006

This year's rush was a big success. We had two weeks of classes before rush week this year, and we took advantage of it by planning several pre-rush events. On the Thursday before classes started, we held a party on the South Patio where we had Magic 98.5 a local popular radio station to DJ. We also held our third annual slip'n'slide in Sherlock Park that was a big hit.

During rush week we had several planned nights. The first night was the Phi Gam Golf Classic, which featured 18 homemade putt-putt holes that lacked everything but imagination. The next night was a brand new rush event. County Fair night was a big success. We had several carnival games set up all around the house. We had everything from a dunking tank to a car smash in the back lot.

The next night was the staple Island Night, which featured two waterfalls off of the roof of the house. One fed a stream to a bamboo-surrounded pond and the other flowed into a different pond that both held goldfish. Serving non-alcoholic

mixed drinks and Dave Clifford's famous Island chicken, Island night was also another big success. The last night of rush was our Gentleman's Night that was invitation only and featured a Herb Marshall picture.

Overall we received 36 bids back. Each of them will help add to another great fall pledge class. Everybody give 'six' to another good rush.

-Kyle Davis

Rush Chairman



Island Night Entrance



Brothers enjoy the slip 'n' slide



Island Night waterfall and pond

SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE

Last spring the chapter did not meet the chapter goal of an average GPA of 3.0. We had an average chapter GPA of 2.73. We did exceed Tech's all male average yet again. Only three of the eleven fraternities on campus were able to meet or exceed the all male average, and we were one of the three.

Even though we did not meet our goal, we still achieved the top ranked fraternity GPA. The pledges did their part to help the chapter. Beta Lambda,

the 2006 spring pledge class, did meet their goal. The pledge class of eight people had a average GPA of 3.18 which gives the chapter hope of this fall semester being the semester where we finally meet our goal of a chapter GPA of 3.0.

Six clicks to the brothers that made a 3.0 or higher and to achieving our goal this semester.



PHI GAM ATHLETICS UPDATE

The All-Sports Champs are back to defend our title. After winning the IFC All-Sports Championship beating out Kappa Sig in the last event, golf, we are looking to make it two years in a row.

We never finished first in any one sport all of last year except for golf, which we won by around ten strokes. Kappa Sig finished a close second only 4.5 points behind us.

With only two events left for the year, we held a very small lead knowing that we would probably kill everybody in golf. In softball, we only needed to either beat Kappa Sig or finish

second to secure the All-Sports title. In the softball championship game we played Kappa Sig. It was a very close game ending with Kappa Sig hitting a solo walk off homerun. It was a tough loss but just getting to the championship game solidified the All-Sports Trophy.

IFC WRESTLING WEIGHT CLASS CHAMPIONS

NATHAN PUTMAN
130-UNDER

JIM WEAKLEY
185-193



Jim Weakley about to pin his opponent.

TECH FIJI INC.

TFI, Tech Fiji Inc., has looked into purchasing the back lot and house behind the Fraternity house, 'the Lodge.' Unfortunately TFI found that the lot is zoned for the hospital, which means that we cannot build on the lot without getting it rezoned. Getting it rezoned could be difficult considering we are trying to rezone it to build a bigger fraternity house. TFI is looking for land in other areas close to campus for the site of our new house while they look into rezoning.

TFI has also finally paid the final house payment on the current fraternity house. From now on, the rent money from brothers living in the house will go toward any future new fraternity house and the upkeep of the current house. Many improvements are constantly needed to keep the house livable and looking good. Brothers took up a collection before the fall semester to replace the downstairs bathroom floor to keep the toilet from falling in.

Many other improvements need to be made as well as other things. Your donations are always welcome. TFI has made donating really easy. You can now go to the TFI website and give money that way. They also have several different ways

to annually give money, including the 1848 Club, which gives donations of \$18.48 a month. There are all sorts of other plans that can fit your budget. You can even select your own payment system if you want to.

There are also ways to give back to the chapter with out giving money. TFI has set up positions for graduates to help the chapter in different areas as an advisor. Also, there are many positions on the TFI board that are vacant and need people to fill them. Even if you think that you might not have time to help, any time is appreciated. Again, check the TFI website for more information.

So please help out our chapter in any way possible. Remember it is not for college days alone. And again check out the graduate website at www.ttufiji.com/ tfi.

DONATIONS

THE 527 CLUB
\$5.27 A MONTH

THE 1848 CLUB
\$18.48 A MONTH

ONE TIME
DONATION



The downstairs bathroom gutted.

158TH EKKLESIA

This year the 158th Ekklesia meeting of Phi Gamma Delta was held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, August 10th-13th. Brothers from every chapter all across the United States and Canada as well, came together to celebrate and improve this great fraternity. Thousands of Fijis met to talk about the International Fraternity's goals and what each chapter needs to do to help preserve the glory of Phi Gamma Delta.

Our chapter did exceptionally well during the Awards Banquet. Out of eight awards eligible for different chapters, Theta Tau placed in five of them. We placed first in the Coon Cup which is awarded for the best chapter Graduate Relations publication. We received second place in the Condon Cup, which is awarded for the greatest improvement in scholarship, extracurricular activities, and fraternity relationships. In the Baker Cup we received honorable mention, which is awarded for focusing on religious, ethical, and social service activities. We also received honorable mention in the Jordan Cup which is awarded to the undergraduate chapter which is judged to have achieved the highest comparative scholarships among the undergraduate chapters for the preceding academic year. And we

received honorable mention in the Zerman Trophy which is awarded to the undergraduate chapter which excels in promoting the involvement of brothers in student government, the campus newspaper and extracurricular activities. Even during a big event such as this, the Brothers of Phi Gamma Delta made time to help out the local community of Minneapolis. Saturday morning at least one brother from every chapter helped landscape the Minneapolis American Indian Center. Over one hundred brothers worked all morning to give the Indian Center a new look. The 159th Ekklesia will be held in the summer of 2008 where we plan to clean house again.



158TH EKKLESIA AWARDS

COON CUP — 1ST PLACE

CONDON CUP — 2ND PLACE

BAKER CUP — HONORABLE
MENTION

JORDAN CUP — HONORABLE
MENTION

ZERMAN TOPHY — HONORABLE
MENTION

PICTURES FROM FIJI LAND



ATTENTION!

Graduates, we are currently trying to get a sort of genealogy together of big bro's and little bro's. We received some information from those that attended Pig Dinner, but for most of you we still do not have your big and little bro' information. If you could e-mail us at our e-mail account gradrealations@ttufiji.com and please list that information. It would be greatly appreciated.

Also if you have moved or have a new e-mail address, please visit www.ttufiji.com/tfi and in the upper

right hand corner update your information. Doing this only takes a second and keeps us from having to call hundreds of phone numbers, and you will not have to receive phone calls from us. Registering at the grad-website is best for both parties.

Thank you and hope to hear from you real soon.

Fraternally,

Will Crunk

Graduate Relations Chairman

YOUR THOUGHTS...

Please provide any feedback on the Golden Eagle Fiji and Graduate Relations you might have. Also, if there is anything you would like to see in future issues or if you would like to be the Graduate Spotlight, please let us know.

Quality of the

- ☐ Good
☐ Fair
☐ Poor

Graduate

- ☐ Good
☐ Fair
☐ Poor

Topics covered?

- ☐ Good
☐ Fair
☐ Poor

Would you like to be featured as a Graduate

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

Additional Comments:

Name

Address

Email Address

Phone

Please detach and return to:

Phi Gamma Delta

Attn. Graduate Relations Chairman

527 N. Peachtree Ave

Cookeville, TN 38501

Will Crunk (Chairman)

Phone: 615-308-2954

E-mail: gradrelations@ttufiji.com

If you have any comments or suggestions about the Golden Eagle Fiji or would like to be featured in the spring issue please contact:

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