

TEXAS FIJI

The Longhorn Fiji—The University of Texas at Austin
Established 1883

Fall 2021

Building a Connection

Recapping Fiji's Accomplishments and Future Endeavors

As the head of the Board of Chapter Advisors (BCA), it's been a pleasure and privilege getting to know the Fiji actives. It's uncanny to me how the Fiji legacy gets passed from class to class and generation to generation. The young men I'm getting to know now remind me of my own class from the late 1970s. My father, **William Kinney '40**, used to tell me the same thing about his own class and mine.

The continuity of the character of Phi Gamma Delta over the years makes each Fiji a link in the long chain that binds us all together, young and old. Every time I walk into Texas Fiji, I sense a camaraderie that confirms what I already know: Phi Gamma Delta is not for college days alone!

A handful of us are trying to tap into the practical implications of this everlasting connection in hopes of developing a network database between active members and alumni that would enable current members to find alumni mentors in their aspiring fields of work.

For many graduating Fijis, the challenge of finding a meaningful internship or job in a bewildering, competitive, and complicated marketplace can be overwhelming. Our hope is to ease them into this transition by providing the tools to succeed post-graduation.

Our Austin Chapter is so lucky to have finally found a Purple Legionnaire, **Ben Fortson '16**. Ben served as president of the cabinet his junior year; he is an amazing young man and very well respected by all who know him. He was installed into this position at the end of September by **Paul Hains**, field secretary, and **Reed Andersen '19**, current president.

Finally, I am thrilled to report that the Fijis continue to embrace a culture of community service. Over the past 3 to 4 years, they have built an impressive portfolio of service projects that impact the people they serve and enhance our positive standing with the university and wider Austin community. From building miniature homes for the homeless to making necessary home renovations for elderly and disabled Austinites, the Phi Gams are making us proud.

Looking ahead, we're working on a spring concert to raise more money for philanthropy to continue serving our community and strengthening our brotherhood. If you have any questions, thoughts, or insight, please do not hesitate to contact me.

GTBO,
Rev. Stephen Kinney, Ph.D. '74
Head of the BCA
swk.kinney@gmail.com

AN UPDATE FROM TEXAS FIJI'S CHAPTER OFFICERS

KEEPING CONNECTED WITHIN UT, THE BROTHERHOOD, AND COMMUNITY

STAYING INVOLVED

My name is **Reed Andersen '19** and I am honored to serve as the president of the Tau Deuteron Chapter for the 2021-22 academic year. The BCA and last year's leadership, led by **George Masterson '18**, put our cabinet in a great position for this year. Our Chapter is very proud to share our involvement on campus, the new member class, and our philanthropy goals for this school year.



Members of the Chapter listening intently to an information session presented by B+ Foundation co-founder Joe McDonough.

Members remain active on campus and in the community. **Jake Adamson '19** serves as Executive Vice President of the Interfraternity Council (IFC) and **Cade Crawford '19** is VP of IFC relations. These two upstanding men have worked side-by-side with the Not on My Campus organization, which is dedicated to ending sexual assault on campus. In an effort to connect Austin's philanthropic organizations with the Greek community, Jake and Cade have also started the Greeks Give Back organization.

In addition to the accomplishment of these two men, **George Masterson '18** has the honor of being a BEVO handler with the Silver Spurs Alumni Association this semester, **Braxton Robison '20** is part of UT's Navy ROTC program, and **Drew Dodge '19**, **Eli Bahkt '19**, and **Blake Wills '19** are members of the leadership team for Reformed University Fellowship.

Academically, our Chapter continues to perform very well with a cumulative 3.67 GPA. The past year and a half have been a strange adjustment with classes going virtual, but we are proud to announce that our GPA ranked us above the University average and fifth in the IFC.

GTBO,
Reed Andersen '19
President
jamesreedo@gmail.com

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AN UPDATE FROM TEXAS FIJI'S CHAPTER OFFICERS

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BUILDING OUR BROTHERHOOD

It truly is an honor to have such an outstanding group of young men representing Texas Fiji. This fall, we welcomed 56 tremendous men to our brotherhood from all over the state of Texas as well as Louisiana, Colorado, Georgia, Connecticut, and Washington, D.C.

It's an amazing feeling to watch our diverse group of men become closer each day as they continue to learn from and bond with one another. Our entire Rush Team could not have imagined being as successful as we were this year.

With that said, none of this would be possible without our extremely tight-knit group of alumni; for that, I cannot thank each of you enough. We had more donations than ever this past year for Rush, and it made an enormous difference. We look forward to watching our brotherhood flourish, and your gifts strengthened our brotherly bonds more than words can describe.

GTBO,
Drew Dodge '19
Head Rush Captain
drewdodge2019@gmail.com

GIVING BACK

Texas Fiji is proud to announce its eighth consecutive year of involvement with the B+ Foundation. The Andrew McDonough B+ Foundation is a charity that seeks to raise money and awareness to aid both children and their families as they battle through the various types of childhood cancer as well as fund critical childhood cancer research.

Over the past eight years, Texas Fiji has been quite successful in raising money for the foundation, accumulating over \$32,000 in donations. To donate today, visit the B+ Texas Fiji page at www.beposfdn.org/bpos_index.aspx?eventtag=UTAustin22.

Texas Fiji has also continued its work with the Interfaith Action of Central Texas' (IACT) Hands on Housing project. This project is dedicated to repairing the homes of senior citizens and disabled individuals living in poverty. Last spring, members of the Fraternity sponsored Bobby Williams, a retired military veteran. Brothers collaborated to paint and repair the exterior of Bobby's house.

We completed builds on two micro homes in the Mobile Loaves and Fishes Community First Village project during the spring 2021 semester. In the end, we raised \$25,000 for one micro home build and another \$12,500 for the second build. Texas Fiji plans to work with the Community First Village project through the fall.

Another philanthropy event that Texas Fiji was proud to participate in was the Hurricane Ida Relief fundraiser in which we raised \$1,000 for Second Harvest Food Bank of Greater New Orleans. We will continue our work with the Central Texas Food Bank and other groups throughout the semester.

GTBO,
Klein Hull '19
Philanthropy Chairman
hullklein@gmail.com

Josh Miller '19
Philanthropy Chairman
jmm22578@utexas.edu



Braxton Robison '20 representing Texas Fiji through UT's Navy ROTC program.



George Masterson '18 handling BEVO at the Texas/OU game.

CHAPTER OFFICERS

President
Reed Andersen '19
jamesreedo@gmail.com

Treasurer
Matthew Priddy '19

Historian
Clark Grigsby '19

Corresponding Secretary
Charlie Doyle '19

Recording Secretary
Jax Rawlinson '19

Philanthropy Chairmen
Klein Hull '19

Josh Miller '19

Head Rush Captain
Drew Dodge '19
drewdodge2019@gmail.com

Central Texas Food Bank



Wilson Sands '19



Bo Thompson '19



Ben Shepherd '19 and Klein Hull '19

Hands on Housing

Members of pledge class 2019
with Bobby Williams (left).

Klein Hull '19



Ben Shepherd '19 and Jack Liston '19

WELCOME 2021-22 NEW MEMBERS

Luke Annett Dallas, Texas	Thomas Collins Houston, Texas	Hudson Gage Houston, Texas	Thompson Huthnance Dallas, Texas	Jack McGreevy Houston, Texas	Mark Sechler San Antonio, Texas
Bradley Baay Houston, Texas	Crockett Corwin Dallas, Texas	Bates Grigsby New Canaan, Conn.	Patrick Iglesias Houston, Texas	Grey Nakfoor Austin, Texas	Ben Seger San Antonio, Texas
Beau Beathard Austin, Texas	Ryan Cusack Austin, Texas	Jason Grigsby Austin, Texas	Andrew Jimenez Houston, Texas	Ben Norman Austin, Texas	Sean Sheets Houston, Texas
Bradley Benton Austin, Texas	Thomas Daniel Austin, Texas	Henry Hagenbuch Dallas, Texas	William Kight Houston, Texas	Luke Peters Houston, Texas	Grayson Stein Houston, Texas
Trey Butter Austin, Texas	Daniel Delp Dallas, Texas	Blake Holst Denver, Colo.	Brady Lamme Austin, Texas	Dub Reckling Houston, Texas	Chapel Stewart Austin, Texas
J.R. Chambers Atlanta, Ga.	Malcolm Downie Dallas, Texas	Carter Hooten Austin, Texas	Marshall Landwehr Dallas, Texas	Camden Roy Dallas, Texas	Robert Sweet Dallas, Texas
Luke Charpentier New Orleans, La.	Duke Elliot Austin, Texas	Keller Horlock Houston, Texas	Henry Lewis Austin, Texas	Blake Sanders Houston, Texas	William Watson Houston, Texas
Charlie Clements Dallas, Texas	Charlie Featherston Dallas, Texas	Johnny House Houston, Texas	Dylan Marcus Houston, Texas	James Schupbach San Antonio, Texas	Worthey Wiles Dallas, Texas
Bowen Coburn Washington, D.C.	Ford Frazar Dallas, Texas	Thurman Humphries McAllen, Texas	James McAnalley Dallas, Texas	Charlie Scott Austin, Texas	Richard Winter San Antonio, Texas



Jake Ehlinger circa 2019.

How You Can Make a Difference *Establishing the Jake Ehlinger Scholarship*

As many of you know, our Texas Fiji Chapter lost one of its active brothers on May 6, 2021, with the passing of **Jake Ehlinger '19**. Jake was a leader in all that he did with his family, friends, and football teammates at the University of Texas. He will be missed greatly by all that knew him, but he will never be forgotten.

A handful of thoughtful alumni set up a memorial scholarship in Jake's name with the blessing of his family—Jena, Sam, and Morgen. He will be remembered and celebrated every year as that scholarship is awarded. We set up the scholarship through the university and alumni association, Texas Exes.

The recipients will be chosen by a Texas Fiji alumni committee each year in coordination with the Ehlinger family. The recipients will be formally announced at an event hosted by the Texas Exes, where we will also announce the recipients at our annual Texas Fiji alumni Pig Dinner.

Thank you for helping in this great cause to keep Jake's memory in everyone's hearts and minds for years to come. To donate, please visit <https://giving.utexas.edu/jake-memorial>.

GTBO,
Trey Chambers '89



Will Kozmetsky '99
honors Jake Ehlinger
with a "48" flag
at the Louisiana at
Lafayette game.

TEXAS FIJI

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BUEN RETIRO COMMITTEE
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AUSTIN, TX

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ALUMNI NEWS

Aubrey Black '46 was Chapter president in 1946. He is 95 years old, living in Dallas, and still proud to be a Fiji.

Fred Patterson '48 lives in Denton, Texas, where he was publisher emeritus at Denton Publishing Co. until 1999. He and his wife, Patsy (dec.), who was a Chi Omega at UT, have two children, Fred Jr. and Riley.

William Lyons '57 reports he is getting old but keeping the faith and a sense of humor. He lives in San Antonio, Texas. Email: blyons@casario.com

Laurens Hall '60 is a retired Episcopal priest and lives in Houston, Texas. Email: lhall1116@aol.com

Roy Rushing '62 retired in December 2014 (again) and lives in Lakeway, Texas. He was a banker for 42 years in Austin. He worked for Capital National Bank (now Chase Bank), American Bank (Mbank then Chase Bank), and Horizon Bank (now Compass Bank). He worked as VP, senior VP, and president at various times. Email: royerushing@gmail.com

James Susong '64 retired in 2018 and moved with his wife, Judy, to Tulsa to be near their children and grandchildren. He reports that several brothers attended the funeral service for **James Jackson Weatherford '64** in February 2019.

Follow us online at www.texasfiji.com