

# TEXAS FIJI

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

Fall 2023

## Leaving Buen Better Than We Found It

### ENCOURAGEMENT FROM THE BCA HEAD

“Nothing in this world can take the place of persistence.” When I was a Fiji pledge, I remember being asked to commit these words, spoken by America’s 30th president, Calvin Coolidge, to heart and memory. The Fraternity was trying to convey something deeply significant about our Fraternity and what we value. Natural talent, intelligence, and a proper education are nice and worthy pursuits, but at the end of the day, they are not enough. The world needs men who are willing to be resolute in purpose and courageously pursue a course of action that will make the world a better place.

When I think about what it means to be afforded the privilege of membership in the Tau Deuteron Chapter of Phi Gamma Delta, I also contemplate what it means to steward that privilege well: namely, to persist toward a life of service, excellence, and the cultivation of character. We want these men to form lifelong friendships—as we often say, this Fraternity is “Not for college days alone,” but we also want that strong internal bond to amplify a real external impact in the community. **We want the world to be a better place because Texas Fijis are making an active contribution to the common good.**

In my short time as head of the Board of Chapter Advisers for the Fraternity (I took over from **Steve Kinney ’74** on August 1), I have been struck and impressed by the sense in which all the young members I have spoken to share this goal. While I don’t think college is a season of life meant to be shrouded in too much seriousness outside the classroom, I do believe the seeds planted in these young men’s lives while they are Fijis at Texas are important in shaping their future. I also believe who they become matters tremendously and that only great men can shape a great world.

The BCA is committed to keeping our young men safe during this fun and formative time while also helping them keep their eye on the prize through character-building activities and healthy forms of fellowship among Fraternity members. Our goal is to ensure that they leave their time as Fijis persisting toward that which in life truly matters: lifelong friendships, high ethical standards, and personal development in the pursuit of excellence.

Good to Be One!  
**Rev. John Newton ’00**  
Head of the Board of Chapter Advisors

## Passing the Torch

### Rev. Stephen Kinney ’74 Ends His BCA Tenure

At this year’s Pig Dinner, **Rev. John Newton ’00** got a rare standing ovation after he gave the night’s speech. At that very moment, after having served as the head of the BCA for five years, I started thinking that John should be my replacement! After all, he is one of the seven Episcopal priests who have been Fijis since **Rev. Larry Hall ’60** began the trend in the early ’60s. Long story short: John agreed and became BCA head on August 1.

It’s been a privilege for me to serve in this capacity, but it’s time for some of the “younger guys” to step in. Former Tau Deuteron President **Kenneth Pruitt ’72** put it into perspective at the Pig Dinner when he made note that when we were active in the ’70s, the guys who were Fijis 50 years before us were undergraduates during the Roaring Twenties!

(Continued on page 2)



Members of the 2000 pledge class enjoy fellowship at the Fiji house in Tuscaloosa (34-24, Horns win!).



The pledge class of 2001 catches up on old times at Texas Ranch.





## Passing the Torch

(Continued from page 1)

The best part of my job was getting to know the Chapter presidents; my gratitude goes out to **Ben Fortson '16**, **Garrett Wingrove '17**, **George Masterson '18**, **Reed Anderson '19**, **Austin Russell '20**, and **Brady Lamme '21**.

It's been a gift to have worked with so many volunteer alumni who give back to the Chapter that gave them so much. Special shoutouts go to **Mark Winter '79**, **Gene Shepherd '77**, **Bob Butchovsky '80**, **Bryan Campbell '78**, **Ardon Moore '77**, **Gary McClure '76**, **Curtis Hutcheson '88**, **Tom Shirley '78**, **Robert Canon '72**, **Dewitt Waltmon '76**, **Scott Waltmon '83**, **John Shepherd '85**, and many others.

Our Section Chiefs have served as real advocates; thank you, **Kirk Walden '68** and Paul Hains. I'm especially grateful to **Ben Fortson '16** for stepping up to serve as Purple Legionnaire—he's the perfect liaison between alumni and undergraduates. Finally, how lucky we are to have such a fine business manager, Betsy Clements, who serves as the glue that holds so much together.

Over the past five years, we've sought to develop a "21st Century Fraternity Business Model" that addresses the constraints and challenges that today's Fraternity culture faces. Our goals have been to eliminate all forms of abuse, preserve our better traditions while engaging the larger culture through community service, and build a mentorship model for the undergraduates.

I do not doubt that John will help Tau Deuteron build upon this work and help keep Tau Deuteron going strong for years to come.

Glad to Be One!

**Rev. Stephen Kinney '74**

## Making a Difference

### TEXAS FIJI PRIORITIZES PHILANTHROPY

**T**rey Butter '21 and Carter Hooten '21, our philanthropy chairmen, have demonstrated Texas Fiji's emphasis on working for justice through community partnerships with Feed My People, Central Texas Food Bank, Hands on Housing, and Nicole's Place. As a chapter, we have also worked closely with The B+ Foundation, which focuses on the fight against childhood cancer. We have raised \$39,580 for the organization thus far this semester.

On November 4, during the tailgate before the Kansas State game, we hosted our annual Jake Ehlinger fundraiser. The fundraiser's primary focus is to honor the late **Jake Ehlinger '19**, a beloved friend who left an indelible mark on Buen Retiro. We appreciate everyone who made this event successful!

## Not Just a Fraternity

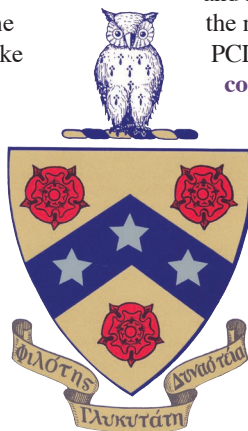
### A LETTER FROM THE CHAPTER PRESIDENT

**W**hen I joined Texas Fiji in the spring of 2021, I was drawn in by the robust sense of camaraderie in the Fraternity. Through golf outings, lake days, and ranch excursions, the one thing that was made abundantly clear was that Texas Fijis make friends that last a lifetime. In college, all I wanted was to experience the brotherhood and find a home away from home at Buen Retiro.

I'm grateful I've had the opportunity to forge those deep, long-lasting connections, but what I didn't anticipate was the enormous and drastic character development I would undertake throughout my time thus far. My pledge class and I have been chiseled into men of grit, charity, knowledge and, most importantly, persistence. As president, I am sincerely appreciative of how the principles of Texas Fiji have shaped me.

We are not just a Fraternity; we are a brotherhood. Our chapter sculpts men of high stature who portray leadership, kindness, and loyalty on campus. In addition, we apply ourselves rigorously in our studies as we challenge one another to succeed above and beyond the average

student. While we are like other fraternities in our daily activities and routines, such as playing low-hoop basketball, chipping on the new putting green, eating meals from Josh, studying at the PCL, and enjoying a Texas Fiji tailgate; **what sets us apart is our commitment to our values.**



It is the cabinet and president's job to uphold our high standards while preserving our tradition. I hope to imbue the pledge class of 2023 with the values that have made such an important and fateful impact. My goal is to maintain the values of Texas Fiji that permeate through our chapter by encouraging high academic standards, pushing our philanthropic pursuits, and cementing our brotherhood.

I am looking forward to the rest of the school year, and at Texas Fiji, it truly is good to be one!

GTBO,  
**Brady Lamme '21**  
Chapter President  
president@txfiji.com | (512) 578-8022





## CHAPTER OFFICER REPORTS

### WORTHY WILES '21

#### TREASURER

I am a finance major from Dallas, where I graduated from Highland Park High School. My focus this year is to coordinate with the social chairmen and business manager to make sure all events and tailgates run smoothly and on budget. I also serve as vice president to Brady and assist him in his responsibilities.

### WILLIAM WATSON '21

#### RECORDING SECRETARY

I graduated from Houston's Kinkaid School in 2021, and I am now majoring in finance. My goal this academic year is to maintain Texas Fiji's good standing and compliance regarding Phi Gamma Delta National and the university's Interfraternity Council. From rosters to academic performance to bylaws, I have made it my mission that every document and deadline will be fulfilled in a timely and thorough manner. Additionally, I have a personal passion project to begin accumulating records of all alumni for every Texas Fiji's social and professional benefit.

### ROBERT SWEET '21

#### CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

I am a human dimensions organizations major from Dallas and graduated from Highland Park High School in 2021. As corresponding secretary, I want to ensure all important messages are properly relayed to the appropriate members, alumni, or other parties in a timely

and organized manner. I will also ensure that the Texas Fiji network remains strong and interconnected by updating members and alumni through the newsletter.

### THOMAS DANIEL '21

#### HISTORIAN

I'm a human dimensions of organizations major from Austin and graduated from St. Andrew's Episcopal School in the spring of 2021. I oversee teaching new members, as well as the rest of the Chapter, the rituals of Phi Gamma Delta. I also ensure that composites and photos around the house are up to date so that alumni can come back and see their old photos whenever they are at Buen Retiro.

### LUKE CHARPENTIER '21 AND CHRISTOPHER SCOTT '21

#### HOUSE MANAGERS

We are from New Orleans and San Antonio, respectively. Our job entails daily maintenance and improvements at the house while communicating with the rest of the staff and residents. Thanks to the Purple Owl Housing Association, the Chapter returned this fall to a fully renovated front yard. The brothers have thoroughly enjoyed spending time with each other on the new turf while perfecting our short game on the new putting green. We are excited to begin construction on the front yard fireplace as the weather continues to cool off. As the year unfolds, we are both excited to maintain the historic Buen Retiro in its best possible condition.

## Why did you choose Texas Fiji?

### ANDREW ALEXANDER '23

"During recruitment, I felt the brotherhood between all the members, and I knew I had to be a part of it! Growing up in Austin, I've seen these lifelong bonds translate to success in the business world. There was no choice to make; I knew Texas Fiji was the right place for me."

### LOGAN SMITH '23

"Having family members involved with Texas Fiji allowed me to witness my relatives grow into upstanding men in their community. I admired their lifelong friendships, and I also respected their maturity and growth. Texas Fiji holds its members to a high standard, and that's something I wanted to be part of."

### GARDNER WATSON '23

"Seeing the connection between my older brother and his pledge class was a big reason for my decision to attend UT; I wanted to share the same bond they have with each other. I looked up to how they respected each other, how they treated others, and the lifelong relationships they built."



Cabinet members gather on the steps of Buen Retiro to welcome family and friends to the Texas vs. Rice tailgate. From left: Luke Charpentier '21, Thomas Daniel '21, Worthy Wiles '21, Brady Lamme '21, William Watson '21, Robert Sweet '21, and Christopher Scott '21.

*Know Someone We Should Know?*

**SUBMIT A  
RECRUITMENT  
REFERRAL!**

Help Texas Fiji grow stronger than ever by recommending potential new members! Send the individual's name, phone number, and high school to Alex Gottsegen '22 at (713) 623-3669.





# BROTHERS IN ACTIONS

## What Are the Undergraduates Up To?

### Honoring Our Military

The 2021 pledge class mounted Fort Fiji in preparation for a fall party that honored members of the armed forces.



### Texas Football

**Marshall Landwehr '21** (#51), **Patrick McBroom '22** (#63), **Rett Anderson '23** (#35), and **Bryce Chambers '23** (#37) are all members of the 2023 Texas football team. Congratulations on a great season so far!



*Marshall Lanwehr '21 cuts toward the ball in the Texas Spring Game.*

### Texas Cowboys

Snap to **Keller Horlock '21** and **Camden Roy '21** on being a part of the Fall 2023 Newman Class for the returning Texas Cowboys!

### Texas Trophy Hunters Association

As president, **Thurman Humphries '21** brings together the UT hunting community to educate, defend, and maintain Texas' great wildlife conservation and outdoor heritage for future generations to come.

### IFC

**John Trahan '22** serves on the judicial board of the Interfraternity Council at UT Austin. He maintains the integrity of all Fraternities at UT Austin by enforcing the bylaws and constitutions set by the Interfraternity Council.

### TEG

**Luke Annett '21**, **Thomas Collins '21**, **Jude Trahan '22**, and **John Trahan '22** are all members of the Texas Equity Group. This is one of the premier student-run organizations on campus, as they manage a diverse U.S. equity portfolio of ~\$16,000. Luke and Thomas also fulfill their role as finance educators to the new members.

### PGN

**Brady Lamme '21**, **Trey Ashmore '20**, and **Camden Roy '21** serve on the executive team of Phi Gamma Nu. Phi Gamma Nu is a business fraternity that preaches the importance of professionalism, philanthropy, and community in the business world. **Rhodes Crow '22**, **Keenan Oldham '22**, and **Jack McMahon '22** are all new members.

### UT Energy

Snap to **Bradley Baay '21** for helping found and serving as recruitment chair for UT's first energy trading club.

### Paloma

The apparel company started by four members of the pledge class of 2019 was handed down to **Alex Gottsegen '22**, **Rhodes Crow '22**, and **Owen McCabe '22**. "It has been super fun getting to run a company with pledge brothers and also see how the Chapter gets behind us and supports our efforts." Keep up the entrepreneurial spirit, brothers!

### Waterskiing Team

Big congratulations to **Carter Hooten '21** on being an individual DII National Champion in waterskiing! Carter thrives in his role as team captain, where he carries the responsibility of holding his teammates accountable and pushing them to be the best they can be. Good luck with the upcoming season!



### Texas Silver Spurs

Snap to **Dyer Rawlinson '20** for being elected to Bevo Handler for the academic year and to **Hudson McElroy '20** for being elected to the Cannon Crew for Smokey for 2023-24. In addition, snap to **William Watson '21** for serving on the Spurs selections committee and to **Christopher Scott '21** for serving as one of the sweetheart chairmen. The Texas Silver Spurs have a prestigious and important place within the Longhorn community, and Fiji Spurs continue to demonstrate their leadership and persistence within the organization!



*Fiji Spurs celebrate sweetheart night. Top row, from left: Michael Duncan '20, Christopher Scott '21, Austin Russell '20, Dyer Rawlinson '20, William Watson '21, and Hudson McElroy '20. Bottom row: Brady Lamme '21, Malcolm Downie '21, and Bradley Baay '21.*





## Welcome, New Members

**Andrew Alexander** | Austin, Texas  
Legacy of **Clifton Wilkinson '23**

**Rhett Andersen** | San Antonio, Texas  
Legacy of **Reed Anderson '19**

**Will Anderson** | Houston, Texas  
Legacy of **David Anderson '94**

**Andrew Baker** | Dallas, Texas

**Brooks Benton** | Houston, Texas  
Legacy of **Hall Benton '20**  
and **Bradley Benton '21**

**John Cahoon** | Dallas, Texas  
Legacy of **Joseph Cahoon '89**

**Jack Carr** | Austin, Texas  
Legacy of **Scott Carr '94**

**Richard Carter** | San Antonio, Texas  
Legacy of **Holden Carter '22**

**Bryce Chambers** | Austin, Texas  
Legacy of **Trey Chambers '89**, **Barrett Chambers '17**, and **Blake Chambers '19**

**James Cooley** | Dallas, Texas

**Hal Crenshaw** | Dallas, Texas  
Legacy of **Robert Crenshaw '17**

**Brady Dauterive** | Dallas, Texas

**Nico Dieterichs** | Austin, Texas

**Thomas Dorbrant** | San Antonio, Texas

**Jackson Duffin** | San Antonio, Texas

**Judge Ellis** | Dallas, Texas

**Ben Epsey** | San Antonio, Texas

**Roark Holman** | Dallas, Texas  
Legacy of **Rance Holman '20**

**Henry Hooper** | Austin, Texas

**Hunter Jeansonne** | Nashville, Tenn.  
Legacy of **Jackson Jeansonne '18**

**George Kunetka** | Houston, Texas

**Tilden Lamme** | Austin, Texas  
Legacy of **Edward Lamme '90**  
and **Brady Lamme '21**

**Harrison Lawrence** | Houston, Texas

**Parker Lynch** | Carmel, Calif.

**Hunter Masterson** | Houston, Texas  
Legacy of **George Masterson '18**  
and **Beau Beathard '21**

**James Masucci** | Houston, Texas

**Zach Mercado** | Austin, Texas

**Lewis Montgomery** | Dallas, Texas  
Legacy of **Baker Montgomery '65**  
and **Jeff Montgomery '91**

**Davis Moten** | Fort Worth, Texas

**Clayton Murphy** | New Orleans, La.

**Garrett Nakfoor** | Austin, Texas  
Legacy of **James Nakfoor '17**, **Hudson Marix '19**, and **Grey Nakfoor '21**

**Mason O'Daniel** | San Antonio, Texas

**Michael O'Shell** | Houston, Texas  
Legacy of **Michael O'Shell '84**

**Sam Oberlin** | Denver, Colo.

**Ahston Ohmstede** | Beaumont, Texas  
Legacy of **Christopher Ohstede '91**

**William Pitzer** | Dallas, Texas

**John Pritchett** | Fort Worth, Texas  
Legacy of **John Pritchett '91**

**Paul Ray** | Fort Worth, Texas

**Hudson Rice** | Waco, Texas

**Robert Riser** | Houston, Texas

**Reese Sampayo** | Brownsville, Texas  
Legacy of **Alan Spence '68**,  
and **Brock Williams '22**

**Bennett Sanders** | San Antonio, Texas

**Charlie Schmidt** | Dallas, Texas

**Will Scott** | Austin, Texas  
Legacy of **Chuck Scott '89**  
and **Charlie Scott '21**

**Woodrow Scott** | San Antonio, Texas  
Legacy of **Christopher Scott '21**

**Ty Sharpiro** | Austin, Texas  
Legacy of **Buck Shapiro '96**  
and **Champ Spencer '22**

**Sam Sherman** | Longview, Texas  
Legacy of **Mac Henderson '18**  
and **Trey Butter '21**

**Logan Smith** | Houston, Texas  
Legacy of **Gregor Smith '20**

**Callan Spence** | Austin, Texas  
Legacy of **Alan Spence '68**,  
**Chas Spence '94**, and **Brock Williams '22**

**Sellers Squires** | Austin, Texas

**Duke Stockton** | Dallas, Texas  
Legacy of **Tom Stockton '62**, **Baker Montgomery '65**, and **Baker Stockton '22**

**Will Swanson** | Houston, Texas

**Chris Taubenfeld** | Dallas, Texas

**Whit Thompson** | Dallas, Texas  
Legacy of **Patrick Whitacre Thompson '50**

**Matty Wagner** | Dallas, Texas

**Jack Wall** | Dallas, Texas

**Jack True** | Dallas, Texas  
Legacy of **John True '93**

**Gardner Watson** | Houston, Texas  
Legacy of **William Watson '21**

**Gunner Williams** | Harlingen, Texas  
Legacy of **Alan Spence '68**  
and **Brock Williams '22**

**Ben Woodward** | Dallas, Texas  
Legacy of **Andrew Woodward '90**

**Garrett Young** | Houston, Texas  
Legacy of **John H. Young '61**  
and **John R. Young '87**



# Congratulations, 2023 Pig Dinner Winners!



**The Samuel Beatty  
Wilson Leadership  
Award**

**Austin Russell '20**  
Chapter President  
Dallas, Texas

**Jake Ehlinger  
Memorial  
Scholarship Award**

**William Holst '20**  
Denver, Colo.

**Daniel Delp '21**  
Dallas, Texas

**Marshall Lanwehr '21**  
Dallas, Texas

**Scott Austin  
Turner Memorial  
Scholarship Award**

**Brady Lamme '21**  
Austin, Texas

**Willaim Watson '21**  
Houston, Texas

**Worthey Wiles '21**  
Dallas, Texas

**Richard Spencer  
Lewis Philanthropy  
Award**

**Ryan Cusack '21**  
Austin, Texas

# TEXAS FIJI

PHI GAMMA DELTA  
BUEN RETIRO COMMITTEE  
P.O. Box 303153  
AUSTIN, TX 78703

*Address Service Requested*

PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
MAILED FROM  
ZIP CODE 66044  
PERMIT #570

*Look inside for exciting  
updates from the  
Chapter and BCA!*

**Follow us online at [texasfiji.com](https://texasfiji.com)**

## GREETINGS FROM DUBAI

### LANCE LOEFFLER '95 SHARES PAST MEMORIES AND RECENT SUCCESS

**A**s a student from a small town in Texas attending a large university, I knew finding a professional and personal network would be crucial. A fraternity can provide both, especially for someone who is somewhat on their own. But why did I decide to join Phi Gamma Delta specifically? For me, it was about relationships.

I am proud of the quality of friendships you find at Texas Fiji. Some of my brothers were in my wedding, and I still stay in touch. I return the favors they have paid me when I can, writing recommendation letters for their children, discussing internships, and sharing my experience. To this day, I'm proud of the friends I made in those four years.

In 1999, I graduated with a bachelor's degree in finance from the McCombs School of Business. I got my start in private industry, and after watching my employer go from being privately held to public, I felt it was a good time to get my MBA and pivot my career.

I moved into financial services and ended up doing investment banking. Those steps right out of college taught me a lot about what I wanted to do, and the degrees I obtained gave me an important toolbox. The work ethic I learned through the long hours on Wall Street was also crucial. These steps were challenging but ultimately set me up for where I am today.



**"THE COMFORT  
AND SUPPORT OF  
THE FIJI HOUSE  
HELPED SET ME ON  
THE RIGHT PATH  
AS I NAVIGATED  
MOVING FROM A  
SMALL TOWN TO A  
BIG CAMPUS."**

I was hired by Halliburton in 2014 to lead the mergers and acquisitions group. My next step was to take the helm of the investor relations piece of the finance organization and, after that, to accept the role of CFO. After four years, I agreed to be the senior vice president of the Middle East, North Africa region for our operations, which represents close to a quarter of the activity for our company globally. It's an exciting part of the world from an oil and gas perspective, and I'm sitting right in the middle of it in Dubai, UAE!

Stateside, I love getting together with brothers from my era at reunions; I've been a bit absent since I moved overseas, but I attend when I can. Several pledge brothers also live in my hometown of Houston, and we get together for dinner and pregame tailgates. My younger brother followed four years behind me, and I've been blessed to continue supporting the next generation by contributing to projects like the remodel and the new backhouse.

Without my time at the Fiji House, who knows what my life could be? It was such a big part of my college experience, and I've continued to have a tether to the people who were so special during that point in my life. It was a rewarding experience that I'm blessed to share with my 40 pledge brothers.