

# TEXAS FIJI

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

— Summer 2016 —

## TEXAS FIJI CONTINUES TO THRIVE DUE TO INCREASED ALUMNI SUPPORT

I am pleased to report Texas Fiji's latest achievements for the spring 2016 semester. The Chapter began the semester with an overall GPA of 3.24, with our new member class earning a 3.27, both of which placed above the all-fraternity average and all-undergraduate men's average of 3.18. Additionally, Texas Fiji volunteered more than 600 hours last fall and raised more than \$50,000 for their philanthropy. They are doing great things and continue to impress.

As a result of such excellent output from our undergraduates who exemplify what it means to be a Fiji, we have numerous awards and scholarships to give out. We have five existing, two of which were added this year, and two are in the process of being added, totaling more than \$85,000 in scholarships and awards annually.

Texas Fiji enjoys strong brand-name recognition as one of the best fraternities at UT. The undergraduates conduct a very organized recruitment process with active alumni fundraisers in key markets providing rush funds, alumni involvement, and referrals. Texas Fiji consistently takes in roughly 50 new members every fall. Last fall, 53 new members were initiated. The total membership is 205 members and is one of the largest on campus, though comparable with a handful of other chapters.

### CHAPTER HOUSE UPDATE

Phase II of Beun Retiros' remodel has begun. This aligns with a five-year plan presented and approved by the Purple Owl House Corporation. The basement air conditioning units have been installed, and the boiler is gone.



Additionally, the north wall window and siding repair and replacement process has been slow starting due to rain delays, but we are confident that we can make our August deadline. Fundraising for this remains underway. Other plans for this summer include new fencing surrounding the property and new locks to Buen Fiesta, which will increase security and assist with crowd control at events.

To date, more than \$5.7 million has been raised to build and support the new back house, allowing for additional housing of men and taking pressure off our 100-plus-year-old Texas monument, Buen Retiro. We're lucky to have so many involved Texas Fiji alumni who take part in many events the Chapter puts on. More than 200 attended the back house dedication and alumni event at the Chapter House. Our active Board of Chapter Advisors (BCA) includes 16 alumni ranging from PC '50 to PC '02, including a National Fraternity representative. Our network includes more than 2,500 alumni who are invited to game day tailgates, our annual Pig Dinner in the spring, annual rush fundraisers, and active recruitment for reunions to be held at the new facilities.

Alumni support plays a huge part in making Texas Fiji so successful, and we thank you for your dedication. Be sure to visit us this fall for tailgates before every home game and to see the latest updates to Buen Retiro. We hope to see you soon!

GTBO,  
Tom Shirley PC '78  
BCA President

Visit [www.texasfiji.com](http://www.texasfiji.com)  
for all things Texas Fiji!

## Buen Retiro Renovation, *What you need to know...*

Total Project Cost:  
\$1 Million

5-Year Plan  
Spend approximately  
\$200,000 per year

### DONE:

- Basement air conditioning units installed
- Boiler removed

### IN PROGRESS:

- North wall window and siding replacement
- New fencing surrounding the property
- New locks to Buen Fiesta to increase security

### TO DO:

- Enlarge the chapter room
- Replace rotten windows and siding
- Paint both interior and exterior
- Replace the flooring on the second and third floors

**How can you help?** We need all the financial help we can get! Donate online at [texasfiji.com](http://texasfiji.com), where you will find an online giving form. Prefer to mail a pledge in? You can find a printable pledge form online as well. You can mail it to: Purple Owl House Corporation, P.O. Box 4769, Austin, TX 78765-4769. Call **Bobby Orr PC '75** at (713) 554-6522 or **Kevin Snodgrass PC '78** at (713) 877-8539 for questions or more information. *Thank you for your support!*



Danny McNamara PC '14, IFC President  
Will Deer PC '13, and Wesley Sparr PC '14.



Chapter President Walker Shirley PC '13 and  
Jack Herbert PC '15 at the Pie the President event on campus.



Texas Fiji held a blood drive supporting  
the Blood Center of Central Texas last spring.



Ford Albert PC '13 donates blood for  
Texas Fiji's blood drive philanthropy.

## Texas Fiji Sets the Fraternal Standard at UT

As I compose this letter, I realize how quickly my tenure has flown by. Through this past year, we have made significant strides on many fronts, as well as kept some of the long-standing traditions we hold so dear. I am humbled and honored to have served this organization that has given so much to me.

### NEW YEAR, NEW LEADERSHIP

I am thrilled to announce the new president for the 2016-17 school year, **Pierce Durham PC '14**. Pierce is a business student from Dallas, Texas. He is an ambitious and astute young man who has an innovative mind. There is no doubt he will lead and serve the Fraternity well in the coming year. Our members could not be more excited for the next generation and look forward to the great things they will be able to accomplish.

### FIJI SETS AN EXAMPLE

Fraternities these days have been under constant scrutiny and we must continue to diplomatically navigate these tumultuous waters. That being said, I believe the Fraternity is stronger than ever. With the addition of a Chapter coordinator and business manager, we have seen Chapter operations streamlined and the elimination of much waste. Our relationships with the National Fraternity and the university staff are better than ever. This past semester, we had eight members elected to the Interfraternity Council's cabinet and executive board, as well as its current president. The Fraternity's overall GPA this past semester was a 3.24 and was ranked sixth out of 27 fraternities on campus. We were also excited about our Red Cross Blood Drive that occurred in early May. Along with other fraternities on campus, we believe we can change the

current stigma and showcase some of the great accomplishments we achieve as an organization.

### LOOKING AHEAD

As school winds down for the year, we begin to gear up for another year of rush. We are very excited for what the summer has in store and believe we will secure another group of fantastic young men. Please do not hesitate to reach out to the e-mail on the website for recommendations for potential new members.

Again, we cannot thank you enough for your support of Texas Fiji.



GTBO,  
**Walker Shirley PC '13**  
Outgoing Chapter President



# A YEAR IN REVIEW



Visit [www.texasfiji.com](http://www.texasfiji.com) for all things Texas Fiji!

## VIEW FROM THE TOP SHELF: CHAD AULER PC '88 SHARES HIS STORY

**F**ounder of Deep Eddy Vodka, **Chad Auler PC '88**, knew Texas Fiji was the perfect fit for him. The Fraternity's reputation had preceded it, allowing Chad to learn about the organization's history prior to joining. However, the ultimate deciding factor in his membership was the men he met. He knew these were the guys with whom he wanted to spend his college years.

"The Fiji experience helped me grow and mature," Chad said. "I learned a lot of great life lessons during my years in the Fraternity. It also provided me with lifelong relationships. Living in Austin, I see many of my brothers on a regular basis. There's a large group living here who get together for lunch, dinner, or golf. And of course I see quite a few from other parts of the state during UT football season."

After graduating from UT with a bachelor's degree in liberal arts and history, Chad joined his family's wine business. He later returned to UT to earn his MBA. It was during this time that Chad got the idea to start his own company. "During my graduate program, I was bitten by the

entrepreneurial bug and wanted to start a company from scratch. I wanted to stay in the alcohol beverage industry so that I could capitalize on my knowledge and relationships from working with my family. This led to the founding of Deep Eddy Vodka, which became the fastest-growing spirit brand in the U.S. market."



Last year, Deep Eddy was sold to Heaven Hill Brands in Louisville, Kentucky. Co-founding the company is one of Chad's major accomplishments and a huge career highlight. "It's important to do something you enjoy, and I enjoy what I do. We all perform better when we're passionate about the work we're doing. That's an important lesson to learn."

When Chad isn't working, he's spending time with his family. He and his wife, Stacy, have an 18-year-old daughter who will attend UT next year, and a 15-year-old son who is a freshman in high school. You can also find Chad hunting, fishing, or playing golf, oftentimes with his wife and kids. You can contact Chad at [chad@chadauler.com](mailto:chad@chadauler.com).

# Chapter Officers

President

**Pierce Durham PC '14** / Houston, Texas

Treasurer

**Ben Graber PC '14** / Houston, Texas

Corresponding Secretary

**Kellam Hall PC '14** / Dallas, Texas

Recording Secretary

**Zach Overby PC '14** / Kerrville, Texas

Historian

**Max Canon PC '14** / Austin, Texas

House Managers

**Grant Hatzmann PC '14** / Dallas, Texas

**Thomas Barfield PC '14**

Baton Rouge, La.

Rush Captains

**Will Carney PC '14** / Dallas, Texas

wcarney5@yahoo.com

**William Butter PC '14** / Dallas, Texas

**Max Canon PC '14** / Austin, Texas

**Robert Sjoberg PC '14** / Austin, Texas

**John Snodgrass PC '14** / Houston, Texas

**Scott Uhl PC '14** / San Antonio, Texas

# TEXAS FIJI

PHI GAMMA DELTA

BUEN RETIRO COMMITTEE

P.O. Box 4769

AUSTIN, TX 78765

*Address Service Requested*

FRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
LAWRENCE, KS  
66044  
PERMIT #570

*Visit [www.texasfiji.com](http://www.texasfiji.com) for all things Texas Fiji!*

## Rush Recommendations

As we look to recruit men of the highest caliber to Texas Fiji, we need your assistance.

Please send names of high-achieving, UT-bound high school seniors to Rush Captain **Will Carney PC '14** at wcarney5@yahoo.com. Additionally, if you would like to make a donation to our recruitment efforts, please visit [www.texasfiji.kintera.org/rush](http://www.texasfiji.kintera.org/rush).

We appreciate your continued support.

## 2016 Texas Football Schedule

(Home games in bold; all times TBA)

**Sept. 4: Notre Dame**

**Sept. 10: UTEP**

Sept. 17: at California

Oct. 1: at Oklahoma State\*

Oct. 8: vs. Oklahoma\* (Dallas)

**Oct. 15: Iowa State\***

Oct. 22: at Kansas State\*

**Oct. 29: Baylor\***

Nov. 5: at Texas Tech\*

**Nov. 12: West Virginia\***

Nov. 19: at Kansas\*

**Nov. 24: TCU\***

\*Big 12 Conference game

## ALUMNUS NAMES SCHOLARSHIP FOR UNDERGRADUATE MEMBERS

**A. Stuart Delgado Jr. PC '30** was born January 12, 1913, in Memphis, Tennessee, to Mary McDaniel and Alexander Stuart Delgado. He graduated from Highland Park High School and the University of Texas, where he was an active member of the swim team. He served in the U.S. Navy during WWII teaching at the Naval Academy in Chicago and serving as port director in Singapore. He retired with the rank of Lt. Commander and remained active in the naval reserve. He retired in 1977 from Atlantic Richfield Corporation. He was preceded in death by his wife of 62 years, Margaret Sears Delgado.

Stuart loved his University and his Texas FIJI brothers, and left in his will a significant portion of his estate to UT to benefit members of Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity at the University of Texas in Austin. We are grateful to Brother

Delgado for his generous gift and are honored to finally award scholarship funds to deserving Texas Fijis. This is the first year of scholarships since his death in 2004. The Endowment is currently managed by the Texas Exes Association. A committee selected by the Board of Chapter Advisors will annually review the selected list provided by the Texas Exes.

Thanks to the many UT Fiji alumni who have given of their time and talents to assist in having this day become a reality and honor Brother Delgado's final request.

GTBO,

Tau Deuteron Chapter of the Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity at the University of Texas

*Perge!*