

TEXAS FIJI

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

Spring 2018

Texas Fiji freshmen at Parent's Weekend 2017.



SAFEGUARDING THE FUTURE CHAPTER SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETES SECURITY UPGRADES

Renovations and Increased Security at Buen Retiro

The new 22-room back addition is entering its fourth year and it has continually proven beneficial for the Fraternity. With the new addition and a final construction cost of just under \$6 million, we raised \$5.7 million through our campaign, thanks to you. In regards to our beloved Buen Retiro, we replaced the wood floors last fall and painted and replaced the ceiling on the main floor over spring break. Last year, we completed the fencing and drive gates to the entire property, safely securing our assets from vandalism. In addition, security lighting and cameras were added as a deterrent.

At this time, the Purple Owl House Corporation has voted to hold off on any new capital projects, including the Chapter room expansion until our loan on the back addition is paid off. We recently paid down the loan by \$166,840, which leaves a remaining balance of \$573,658 (as of April 10, 2018) with Plains Capital. With the remaining pledges due totaling just over \$200,000 and rental income from the new addition, our goal is to retire the debt within three years. The col-

lection of every pledge will greatly expedite this goal and reduce ongoing interest expense. Please check to see if you have a remaining pledge due as every dollar reduces our principle loan amount, thereby expediting the loan payoff. In addition, if you would like to contribute or increase your contribution, please let us know and mail your check to:

Purple Owl House Corporation
P.O. Box 4769
Austin, Texas 78765

Thank you for your generous donation. If you ever have any input or questions, please contact **Kevin Snodgrass PC '78** at kevin.snodgrass@ushousecorporation.com.

Chapter Receives Praise in Phi Gamma Delta's Field Secretary Report

This year's Field Secretary Report was overwhelmingly a great success for Texas Fiji, including organization, leadership, philanthropy, grades, involvement with both the community and university, and fundraising. We are continu-

Purple Owl House Corporation

Mark Connelly PC '70
Kent Collins PC '75
Gary McClure PC '76
Jim Rodman PC '78
Kevin Snodgrass PC '78
Evan Williams PC '78
Trey Fly PC '00
Daniel Madera PC '04

ing to work on mystics and historical traditions. Thanks to the entire cabinet and Fraternity for all their efforts.

GTBO,
Kevin Snodgrass PC '78
Purple Owl House Corporation

Robert Canon PC '72



Building Courageous Leaders

Texas Fiji Awards \$525,000 for Scholarships



A. Stuart Delgado Jr. '30 was born January 12, 1913, in Memphis, Tennessee. He graduated from Highland Park High School and the University of Texas, where he was an active member of the swim team and the Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity. 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 Corp. He was preceded in death by his wife of 62 years, Margaret Sears Delgado.

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

This is the fourth year of awards since the establishment of the scholarship in 2016. The endowment is currently managed by The Texas Exes Association. The Fiji Scholarship Committee reviews the list of eligible candidates provided by Texas Exes through their formal application process. Awards are formally announced at the annual Pig Dinner ceremonies each spring. To date, more than \$525,000 has been awarded to 71 eligible Texas Fijis. The Fiji Scholarship Committee is reviewing formal applications for academic year 2018-19, with awards expected to exceed \$175,000.

We are grateful to Brother Delgado for his generous gift and are honored to fulfill his final request to award scholarship funds to deserving Texas Fijis.

Not for College Days Alone...

GTBO,
Fiji Scholarship Committee
Gene Shepherd PC '78
Marshall Merritt PC '79
Robert Ray PC '78

Chairman
Tom Shirley PC '78

Administrator
Jason Kuhlman

Counsel
John Elliott PC '77



MAINTAINING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Texas Fiji Scholarships and Awards

Texas Fiji takes great pride in the wide range of majors and interests our applicants have. The top five colleges for award recipients include:

- College of Liberal Arts
- College of Natural Sciences
- McCombs School of Business
- Cockrell School of Engineering
- Moody College of Communication

We strive to ensure our undergraduate's range of academic accomplishments are honored and financial needs met. The following awards are a testament to the strength of Texas Fiji:

- Nancy Ghormley Walls Memorial Award (\$2,000) awarded to Outstanding Fiji.
- Phi Gamma Delta Academic Achievement Award (29 awards at \$250, totaling \$7,250) awarded to member with strong academics during pledge semester.
- Nick Finnegan Award awarded to best pledge voted on by his peers.
- Gary Whitworth Memorial Award (\$1,500) awarded to an outstanding senior Fiji attending graduate school.
- Samuel B. Wilson Leadership Award (\$1,000) awarded to an outstanding Fiji who exemplifies character and leadership.
- Richard Spencer Lewis Memorial Award (\$500) awarded to an outstanding senior.
- NEW Chapter Coordinator Award (\$1,000) for exemplifying a Fiji.
- NEWTexas Exes Delgado Scholarships (16 awards totaling \$186,000) awarded to members with 3.0 GPA, 12 credit hours, and who have financial need.
- NEW The Baker and Jeff and Ben Montgomery Emergency Loan Fund (initial fund \$10,000) established by brother **Roy Herberger '61**.
- In Progress Scott A. Turner Memorial Award

2018 Chapter Officers

President

Ben Fortson PC '16

bfortson4@gmail.com / (817) 731-6569

Treasurer

Brian Read PC '16

Recording Secretary

Matthew Barge PC '16

Corresponding Secretary

Peter Sitterle PC '16

Historian

Jack Durham PC '16

Texas Fiji Rush Is On

*Send in Your
Recommendations Today*

Texas Fiji Rush is well underway and one of our first functions was February 24. This year, the Rush Team is confident they will get another strong new member class for next fall. We have received many recommendations from various alumni and will make it a top priority for the Rush Team to meet everyone. Please continue to send any recommendations, comments, or questions to rush@txfiji.com. Please also attend your local Texas Fiji Rush fundraiser in your town.

**Houston • Dallas
Austin • San Antonio**

This year's Rush Captains include:

Ben Fortson PC '16
Ft. Worth, Texas

Matthew Barge PC '16
Dallas, Texas

Blake Barrineau PC '16
Houston, Texas

Nate Thompson PC '16
Dallas, Texas

Harrison Kampf PC '16
Dallas, Texas

Assistant Rush Captains:
Joe Heironimus PC '17
Austin, Texas

Alex de la Fuente PC '17
Austin, Texas

Nix Park PC '17
San Antonio, Texas

Garrett Wingrove PC '17
San Antonio, Texas

Max Holsomback PC '17
Dallas, Texas

Will McLeroy '17
Houston, Texas



THE ROYAL PURPLE STANDARD

Texas Fiji Excels in Philanthropic Contributions and Academics

This spring, Texas Fiji has gone above and beyond to attain our goals. From attaining a GPA above the university all-men and IFC averages to the sophomores successfully completing their traditional canoe trip down the Rio Grande, the men of Phi Gamma Delta set the example for all fraternities at The University of Texas.

Brothers Maintain Delgado Legacy

After achieving a 3.24 GPA and 3.27 new member GPA, Texas Fiji is eager to continue this dedication to academics. We have implemented study hall requirements for all members below a 2.25 GPA. Penalties include not being allowed to run for an office, not being able to live in the chapter house, and social penalties. Our goal is to earn the best GPA in the Greek community and continue to beat the average.

Texas Fiji Scholarships honor excellent behavior to those who exemplify what it means to be a Fiji. There are five existing awards with three new awards this year and one in progress. These scholarships total \$175,000 annually.

Texas Fiji Raises Over \$50,000

Our brothers have continued to be pillars in the community through their service. We logged more than 600 volunteer hours last semester and raised more than \$50,000. The fall pledge class raised more than \$5,000 in their initial drive for Alzheimer's Texas, which will become an annual event for pledge classes and include partnerships with the Greek community. The Chapter also raised \$32,670 for B+ for childhood cancer research and raised more than \$5,800 at the Low Hoops tournament for a UT basketball player, Andrew Jones, who is battling leukemia.

Members Crowned Texas Bowl Champions

We are proud to announce that four brothers of the Longhorn football team were crowned Texas Bowl Champions: **Joe Heironimus '17, Barrett Chambers '17, John House '17, and Omar Barakat '16**. Congratulations to these brothers!



Seniors at the Rio Grande for their annual canoe trip.

Campus Involvement

Texas Fiji has held several meetings with the chapter president and cabinet of IFC, as well as Fraternity, Panhellenic, and Multicultural advisors. We volunteered to participate in cultural engagement/diversity training put on by OSFL, which the BCA president attended. We also attended the Volunteer Institute put on by the OSFL, which was a great opportunity to introduce Texas Fiji to deans and advisors.

Thank You, Alumni

Our alumni are essential in maintaining the excellence Texas Fiji consistently produces. The foundation you have created is still strong today. We greatly appreciate your support and invite you stop by the Chapter House at any time.

GTBO,
Ben Fortson '16
bfortson4@gmail.com / (817) 731-6569



Freshman brothers on a skip trip.



Congratulations, Spring 2018 Graduates

Texas Fiji is extremely proud of our seniors at The University of Texas. These young men might be looking for a job this spring, so if you have a job opening or receive a call from a graduating Texas Fiji, please provide him every opportunity possible. GTBO!

Sam Aycock PC '14
B.A. Economics

Cam Arnold PC '14
B.B.A. Finance

Thomas Barfield PC '14
B.B.A. Corporate Finance

Jack Calhoun PC '14
B.B.A. Quantitative Finance

Max Canon PC '14
B.A. History, B.A. Spanish

Pierce Durham PC '14
B.B.A. Finance

Patrick Elliott PC '14
B.B.A. Real Estate Finance

Ben Graber PC '14
B.S. Mechanical Engineering

Hunter Habash PC '14
B.A. Economics

Grant Hatzmann PC '14
B.A. Government

John Henson PC '14
B.A. Economics

Connor Howden PC '14
B.A. Economics

Richard Jackson PC '14
B.A. Government

Ben Kelly PC '14
B.A. Economics

Christopher Marlow PC '14
B.B.A. Real Estate Finance

Danny McNamara PC '14
B.B.A. Finance

Matthew Milliken PC '14
B.A. General Geology, Business Minor

Jake Peters PC '14
B.A. Economics

Wyatt Simmons PC '14
B.B.A. Real Estate Finance

Robert Sjoberg PC '14
B.A. Government

John Snodgrass PC '14
B.S. General Geology

Wesley Sparr PC '14
B.B.A. Finance, Business Honors Program

Jeff Stewart PC '14
B.B.A. Real Estate Finance

Zandy Thomas PC '14
B.A. Urban Studies

Scott Uhl PC '14
B.A. Government

John Waltmon PC '14
B.A. Economics

Seniors and their dads at fall 2017 Parent's Weekend.



TEXAS FIJI

PHI GAMMA DELTA
BUEN RETIRO COMMITTEE
P.O. BOX 4769
AUSTIN, TX 78765

Address Service Requested

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

ATTENTION: This newsletter is intended for alumni and parents. If your son is still attending The University of Texas, he will receive a copy at the Chapter House. If he has graduated, please send us his permanent address to update our records. Thank you.



2018 UT Football Schedule

The Texas Longhorns finished in the top five overall in recruiting this past year and hopefully some of these recruits will see the field. Please keep in mind that for all afternoon Texas home football games we will have a tailgate at the Fiji house. Join us and Hook 'em Horns!

September 8 – Tulsa
September 15 – USC
September 22 – TCU
October 13 – Baylor
November 3 – West Virginia
November 17 – Iowa State

Follow us online at
www.texasfiji.com

Left: Joe Heironimus '17, Barrett Chambers '17, John House '17, and Omar Barakat '16 crowned Texas Bowl Champions.