

TEXAS FIJI

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

Spring 2024

Building Strong Bridges

Undergraduate Event Promotes Unity and Respect

“What starts here changes the world.”

This motto strikes a deep chord with all University of Texas students and alumni. It speaks about the capacity we all have to impact the world for good, and it aligns perfectly with the privilege of being a Texas Fiji. As we say on our website, “We take great pride in our rich history and are dedicated to the ideals of brotherhood, leadership, and service.”

We expect our young men to uphold high ethical standards and values, and we aim to produce men of character who will positively influence the world around them. **The need for men of integrity is more pronounced now than ever.** Increasingly, this means learning to bridge divides and foster collaboration beyond traditional boundaries.

I was impressed to watch our men bring that goal to life recently when they hosted Rabbi Zev Johnson, director of the Chabad Jewish Student Center at UT, to address our members on the significance of understanding, tolerance, and mutual respect. The evening brought our men closer together around a shared ethic of service and respect and challenged our members to reflect on their role in promoting a more respectful and harmonious world. It reinforced our collective commitment to be men of character, continually learning from others, and nurturing fellowship grounded in brotherhood, leadership, and service.

To quote **George Kunetka '23**, “Rabbi Johnson’s powerful talk helped broaden my perspective on other religious beliefs that are present in the Chapter. I believe the entire Chapter gained a greater sense of empathy for the experiences Jewish people have faced throughout history.”

For more than 140 years, the men of Phi Gamma Delta have had a rich history of making a difference. In a recent meeting with the Rush



“What an unforgettable evening! The Rabbi’s seminar inspired me to be an ally to the Jewish community and brought our pledge class closer together.” –Jake Watts '23

Captain, I was encouraged to hear him emphasize the team’s commitment to recruiting individuals who embody the values of Phi Gamma Delta so we continue to produce men who are leaders in our society for the next century.

Good to be one!
The Rev. John Newton '71
Head of the BCA



The on-campus Fijis have been busy this year! Here’s a sneak peak of their academic year. Find more inside on page 2.



(Left) The pledge class of 2022 celebrates spring Parents Weekend. (Right) Fiji Spurs enjoy their semesterly sweetheart night!
Top row, from left: Dyer Rawlinson '20, Christopher Scott '21, and William Watson '21. Middle row: Hudson McElroy '20, Bradley Baay '21, Austin Russell '20, Michael Duncan '20, Brady Lamme '21, and Malcolm Downie '21. Bottom row: Memo Putman '22 and Adam Russell '22.



Continue in What You Have Learned

Fijis Excel On and Off Campus

As I reflect on my term as president, it is clear to me that Fiji stands above the rest due to our resiliency and determination. I've seen our members persist daily in their academic achievements, dedication to philanthropy, and brotherly bond.

GIVING BACK

This year, we raised \$39,631 for the B+ Organization, a nonprofit charity that helps provide medical care for children with leukemia. In addition, we raised \$7,570 during our Jake Ehlinger Fundraising Tailgate. This money has gone directly into the Texas Exes Jake Ehlinger Fund, which will continue to give academic scholarships to future Fijis.

The Chapter volunteered 711 hours to charity organizations such as Central Texas Food Bank, Hands on Housing, We Are Blood, and the B+ Organization. Our philanthropic efforts reflect our Chapter's mission to make the UT community and the greater Austin area a better place!

MAKING THE GRADE

Our Chapter continued to excel in our studies. We earned a GPA of 3.46, beating the all-male average. New members earned an exceptional 3.53 GPA over the past year. The strength of our brotherhood has never been stronger.

BROTHERHOOD EVENTS

This year marks the sixth we have held our Naaman Fletcher Memorial Megladog Eatoff, a contest where participants try to eat as many megladog hotdogs as possible within one hour. We also held our annual Ivory P. Huff Low Hoop Tournament during Round Up, a brotherhood basketball tournament.

CLASS TRIPS

The pledge class of 2021 also enjoyed a magical voyage on the Rio Grande River in Big Bend National Park during the annual canoe trip, while the graduating seniors celebrated their accomplishments in Las Vegas on the annual mom's trip last spring. Our exquisite chef, Josh White, and the seniors also spent a day reminiscing at Franklin's BBQ, another Fiji tradition.

THE ROAD AHEAD

We are in a strong position with the Texas IFC and national organization, which allows us to preserve the traditions and values that shape Texas Fiji. Anticipation and excitement are abundant within the Chapter heading into the 2024 football season, our first in the SEC.

Most importantly, our Chapter continues to embody persistence. Life is filled with hardships; change is a chasm filled with uncertainty, but persistence is a bridge that we must use to overcome our fears and grow as people.

It has been an honor serving this Fraternity for the 2023-24 school year.

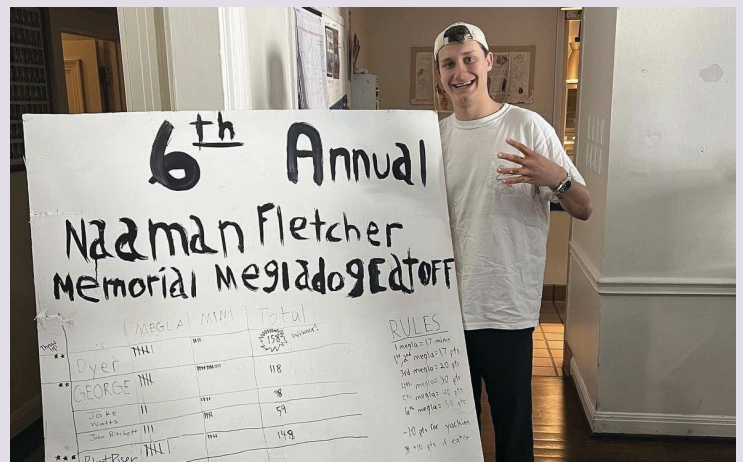
GTBO,
Brady Lamme '21
Chapter President
president@txfiji.com | (512) 578-8022



The pledge class of 2021 enjoying a magical float trip at Big Bend National Park.



The seniors (accompanied by everyone's favorite chef, Josh White) eat their fill at the world-famous Franklin's!



Dyer Rawlinson '20 gets the four-peat and cements his legacy as the undisputed champion of the Naaman Fletcher Memorial Megladog Eatoff contest. Dyer ate six megladogs and earned 158 points!



CREATING GREATER CONNECTIONS

Rad Weaver '94 Shares Texas Fiji Gratitude

“I don’t go a day without recognizing how this Fraternity enhanced my life.”

While he was excited to play baseball at the University of Texas, **James C. “Rad” Weaver ’94** knew little about fraternities. Some of Rad’s high school friends in San Antonio had Fiji connections and urged him to give the Chapter a try. “Once I was on campus and in that house, I knew it was exactly the right spot for me.”

Rad spent most of his childhood moving and changing schools, which made long-term friendships difficult. It was Texas Fiji (and his pledge class in particular) that taught him for the first time how to be a great friend, and Rad still maintains a close connection with those brothers to this day. (One of those is now Rad’s brother-in-law; their wives are sisters!) When he wasn’t on the baseball field or serving as a Silver Spur, he enjoyed road trips, parties at the house, and spending time with the Fijis.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

As former CEO of McCombs Partners, Rad was fortunate to work for the late Texas businessman Red McCombs for decades. Rad left the company four years ago and started his own holding company, CW Interests, as CEO and chairman; the company owns businesses and has stake in others. Its core investments include Jonah Energy based out of Denver; an infrastructure business in Houston, San Diego, and Honolulu; an Austin-based spirits company; Acrisure insurance agency; and stake in Whataburger.

Rad learned from Fiji about making connections which proved to be crucial in his career: not just meeting people but getting to know and understand them. “I learned that not just from my pledge class and older Fraternity brothers, but from the younger guys too,” he recalled. “It was critically important in my personal development, which also turned into professional development.”

WORTHY INSTITUTIONS

Rad is now in his second term on The University of Texas System Board of Regents, having been appointed to his first by Governor Greg Abbott in January 2017. He serves as vice chairman of the Board and is also chairman of the UTIMCO Board of Directors, which manages the endowment fund of UT and Texas A&M. Both roles allow Rad to give his time back to his life-changing alma mater.

Rad lives in San Antonio with his wife, Ashley, and their two children (one of whom will hopefully attend UT soon). His pledge class enjoys a reunion every few years and often sees one another on campus for Longhorn athletics and other events.

“I look back on those college years with fondness,” Rad said. “I don’t go a day without recognizing how this Fraternity enhanced my life.”

You can reach Rad at rw@cwinterests.com.

Rad’s Advice to Texas Fiji Students

“Take advantage of the scale of The University of Texas—don’t take the college years for granted. Say yes and go experience things, whatever that may be.”

2023-24 Chapter Officers

OUTGOING CHAPTER OFFICERS

President **Brady Lamme ’21**
 Treasurer **Worthey Wiles ’21**
 Recording Secretary **William Watson ’21**
 Corresponding Secretary **Robert Sweet ’21**
 Historian **Thomas Daniel ’21**
 House Manager **Christopher Scott ’21**
 House Manager **Luke Charpentier ’21**

INCOMING CHAPTER OFFICERS

President **George Eubank ’22**
 Treasurer **Rico Beuerlein ’22**
 Recording Secretary **Alex Gottsegen ’22**
 Corresponding Secretary **Rogan Crumley ’22**
 Historian **Charlie Stephens ’22**
 House Manager **Memo Putman ’22**
 House Manager **David Greskovich ’22**

(Right) 2021 brothers and outgoing chapter officers taking in the once-in-a-lifetime solar eclipse from the Buen Retiro porch. From left: Luke Charpentier, Thomas Daniel, Worthey Wiles, Brady Lamme, William Watson, Robert Sweet, and Christopher Scott.



2024 Texas Football Schedule

08/31 vs. Colorado State*
 09/07 vs. Michigan in Ann Arbor
 09/14 vs. UTSA*
 09/21 vs. Louisiana Monroe*
 09/28 vs. Mississippi State*
 10/12 vs. OU at the Cotton Bowl in Dallas, Texas
 10/19 vs. Georgia*
 10/26 vs. Vanderbilt in Nashville, Tenn.
 11/09 vs. Florida*
 11/16 vs. Arkansas in Fayetteville, Ark.
 11/23 vs. Kentucky*
 11/30 vs. Texas A&M in College Station, Texas

**Join us at Buen Retiro for a tailgate before these games!*



TEXAS ★ FIJI

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 BUEN RETIRO COMMITTEE
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 AUSTIN, TX 78703

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Number 51, Marshall Lanwehr '21, cutting toward the ball. Snaps to Robert Sweet '21, Rhodes Crow '22, and Alex Gottsegen '22 for being part of the spring 2023 Newman class for the Texas Cowboys!

Follow us online at texasfiji.com

SELFLESS SERVICE

Fiji Philanthropy Update

This spring, Fiji continued working with the Central Texas Food Bank and the B+ Foundation. Fijis contributed hundreds of hours to CTFB's warehouse, helping sort and package items to be delivered. Additionally, they continued to meet with B+ Hero kid, Ronnie; some of the members were even able to attend his baseball games.

Chapter leaders have found that focusing their efforts on these two organizations helps to maximize the effect they have in the Austin community. For more encouraging news from the undergraduates (and more photos), check out the president's report on page 2!

Texas Fiji Is Ready to Grow

2024 Summer Recruitment Schedule

Rush has been successful thus far, and we're extremely excited for summer! We are currently planning several bonding trips. There is a great group coming to Austin in the fall, and we hope to add men of strong character who embody our fraternity's values.

In May, we'll be traveling for annual fundraisers. We hope you'll come out and see us at some of the locations below!

May 7, 5:30-7:00 p.m. – **Fort Worth**,
 Location TBD

May 8, 5:30-7:00 p.m. – **Dallas**,
 The Downie House
 (3608 Lindenwood Ave, 75205)

May 9, 5:30-7:00 p.m. – **San Antonio**,
 The Argyle

May 15, 5:30-7:00 p.m. – **Houston**,
 The O'Shell House (130 Radney Rd, 77024)

May 21, 6:00-7:30 p.m. – **Austin**,
 The Teeple House (3506 Gilbert St, 78703)

2024 Rush Personnel

Head Rush Captain
Alex Gottsegen '22
alex.gottsegen1@gmail.com
 (713) 623-3669

Rush Captains
Rogan Crumley '22 | Fort Worth, Texas
Pete McConn '22 | Dallas, Texas
Memo Putman '22 | Austin, Texas
Charlie Stephens '22 | Dallas, Texas
Ryan Spier '22 | Phoenix, Ariz.

Assistant Rush Captains
Andrew Alexander '22 | Austin, Texas
James Massucci '22 | Houston, Texas
Clayton Murphy '22 | New Orleans, La.
William Pitzer '22 | Dallas, Texas
Paul Ray '22 | Fort Worth, Texas
Jake Watts '22 | Dallas, Texas