

February 20, 2023



SIG-NIFICANT NEWS

Monthly Newsletter - February 2023
Sigma Chi Alumni Chapter of Fresno

FEATURED

CHRIS MORSE (83-S) GIVES BACK
SEE ARTICLE BELOW

2023 TOP DOG – JOHN “TONY” FLORES
SEE ARTICLE BELOW
[Click here for information on 2023 Top Dog Awards](#)

WINE TASTING - TICKETS AVAILABLE
SEE ARTICLE BELOW
[Click Here for More Information](#)
then click “BOOK NOW” at the bottom of the webpage

HISTORY OF THE WINE TASTING
[Click Here for Article](#)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
<https://www.fresnosigsalumni.org/events>

ALUMNI DUES/DONATIONS
July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023
www.fresnosigsalumni.org/product/alumni-membership

President's

Message

Contributed by Brad Fischer (78-S)



My Brothers,

We've had two successful Alumni Chapter dinner meetings and are preparing for our March 16 meeting. It will be one of the best for 2023! Coach Jeff Tedford will be our guest speaker. He'll review the 2022 season and the finale LA Bowl victory, plus what lies ahead for 2023.

Plans continue in an effort to name a memorial bridge on Highway 41 at Alluvial Avenue to honor Order of Constantine, first Epsilon Eta Consul, Ambassador Phillip V Sanchez (52-T). More to follow in the months ahead.

I hope 2023 is off to a great start and you continue to add luster to the White Cross of Sigma Chi.

In Hoc Signo Vincas,

Brad

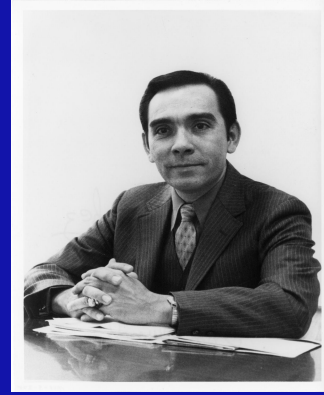
**Brad S. Fischer (78-S)
Cal State - Fresno 1981
Significant Sig
President**

(559) 287-1392

**fresnosigs1952@gmail.com
<http://fresnosigsalumni.org>**

"I could be anything I wanted to be and that an education would make me the equal of my neighbor."

**Ambassador Phillip V. Sanchez (52-T)
First Consul, Epsilon Eta Chapter**



2023 TOP DOG JOHN "TONY" FLORES



The Fresno State Alumni Association announced the 2023 Top Dog Class and that Order of Constantine and Significant Sig John "Tony" Flores (56-S) is a recipient, representing the Graduate Studies Program.

He will be the 15th Sigma Chi to receive a

Top Dog award and five of those brothers were also the Distinguished Alumni Award recipients. He will receive his honor on Saturday, April 22, 2023.

For more information on the 2023 Top Dog awards and its recipients, [click here](#)

Housing Corporation Update

Contributed by John Ballinger (S'65)



The spring semester has “sprung “and we currently have 18 active brothers living in the house.. They are holding “rush” as I write this. Hopefully we will get a decent number of new “recruits”.

The past rain storms caused some interior wall and ceiling damage to the paint and sheetrock in the added on portion of the house. Apparently there were cracks in the drainpipes located in the corners of the roof. Hopefully we have solved that problem, however we might not know for sure until the next downpour.

In a bit of a sad note, we have discontinued the supplementary meal program. Many of the brothers have jobs, night classes and other obligations that don't allow them to dine together. Because of their individual and conflicting schedules and food waste, the actives requested that we eliminate the meals and reduce the rent. We have done so and now they will fend for themselves.

We are very thankful for the services provided by chef Richard Flores over the past several years. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank those brothers who have generously contributed over the years to the meal program. Your efforts in support of my requests are deeply appreciated!

Times and life stiles have changed in this social media driven world. With that being said.... It's great to be a Sig!

In Hoc.

John Ballinger ('65 S)

Housing Corporation President

Active Chapter Update

Contributed by Nicholas Davis, Chapter Editor



The Spring 2023 semester is in full swing and the Chapter is full steam ahead. Rush week took place and it was a great time for the brothers and the potential new members. Events included house tours and barbeque, bowling, dodgeball, and of course Steaks and Sigs.

After much discussion we decided to give out 5 bids that were all accepted. The 5 pledges are excited to begin their journey towards brotherhood and have a long road ahead of them which will develop them into better men.

Magister Anthony Reynoso and his Assistant Magisters Zaid Srouji, Samuel Silverman, and Austin Tuell are ready to guide and teach these men about the ideals of our fraternity and ensure they embody all the qualities stated in the Jordan Standard.

In Hoc Signo Vincas,

Nicholas Davis
Chapter Editor

ALL HONOR TO HIS NAME

MEL UPP (52-T)

By Mike Patton, (63-S) Order of Constantine & Significant Sig



Melvin Carlos Upp (52-T), aged 94, a long-time resident and business owner in San Bernardino, CA, died on July 8, 2022, in Sedona, Arizona. He was born on November 26, 1927 and raised in Woodlake, CA. He served in the U.S. Army before the Korean War. Graduating from Fresno State College with a degree in Journalism, he

considered himself an Ad man.

He worked in advertising at the San Bernardino Sun Newspaper and later was a partner at Ewing and Upp Advertising. He started Inland Printing with his son Steve. He had a strong commitment to serve the disabled community and gave generously of his time and energy. He supported many organizations in the Inland Empire: serving as the Executive Director of the Easter Seals Society of San Bernardino, supporting the Ronald McDonald House, many homeless shelter programs, and the Loma Linda Chamber of Commerce. He was a charter member of Loma Linda/San Bernardino Crossroads Rotary.

Mel was preceded by his wife Betty of 53 years. They have 2 children Diana and Steve. They have 4 grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren. No memorial service is planned.

[LINK TO ARTICLE](#)



Fresno Sigma Chi Donates \$2.4M to Clovis Community Cancer Institute



Katie Zenovich, left, speaks at a ceremony honoring the donation of Chris and Michelle Morse, looking on. Photo by Alex Scott.

The \$2.4 million gift was donated by Brother **Chris Morse** (83-F) and his wife Michelle. Brother Morse, who had stage-four throat cancer and went into remission last year, was a patient at CCI and wanted to pay forward the care he was given along with that of his father, who passed away from lung cancer in 2017.

“The reason we wanted to donate back to CCI and Community Cancer Institute was to be able to bring new cutting-edge technology and treatment plans to patients here in central California,” said Brother Morse, a partner at Moss Adams LLP in Fresno.

“Sometimes we don’t always have all the treatments we need here. But with this money that Michelle and I are donating, it will allow many more patients to stay right here in their own backyard to get treatment, and be able to go home after their treatment and be with their support group or their support system — asleep in their own bed.”

[Click Here for Article](#)

THE HISTORY OF THE

FRESNO SIGMA CHI WINE TASTING

By Mike Patton, (63-S) Order of Constantine & Significant Sig



Left to right, Susan Ballinger, John Ballinger (65-S)
& Significant Sig Bill Smittcamp (73-S)

The Wine Tasting event was created by a social committee formed to create an event(s) for brothers and their spouse or guest. **Gary Renner** (62-S) originally chaired that social committee and was chairman of the Wine Tasting Committee for the first four events. **Tom Kusaka** (79-F) chaired the 5th tasting and **Mike Patton** (63-S) chaired the 6th. From the beginning any profits would go to the Scholarship fund. Originally, we weren't sure we would generate money. **T.A. Heckel** (82-F) has been furnishing the ties from his private cellar from the beginning, and has been pouring each time. Alumni Chapter president **Brad Fischer** (78-S) remembers that the first year we netted around \$2,500.

It is emblematic for Epsilon Eta that the Wine Tasting Committee is the largest of our committees as noted

by **Brian Stout** (63-S). The committee for the 2023 tasting includes **Greg Baxter** (67-S), **Rob Bell** (95-F), **Larry Calvino** (69-S), **Steve Coleman** (78-F), **Sergio Ilic** (87-F), **T.A. Heckel** (82-F), **Tom Licouris** (70-F), **Titus Moore** (09-F), **Jim Norquist** (69-F), **Mike Patton** (63-S) and **Mark Springer** (09-F).

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[More Details and Photos](#)

7th ANNUAL WINE TASTING

APRIL 22, 2023

*Contributed by Mike Patton, 63-S
Order of Constantine & Significant Sig*

The event will be held on Saturday, April 22, 2023, 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM.

The wine committee is composed of brothers **Greg Baxter** (67-S), **Rob Bell** (95-F), **Larry Calvino** (69-S), **Steve Coleman** (78-F), **Sergio Ilic** (87-F), **TA Heckel** (82-F), **Tom Licouris** (70-F), **Titus Moore** (09-F), **Jim Norquist** (69-F), **Mike Patton** (63-S) and **Mark Springer** (09-F).

Our website is ready to take your reservation and credit card payment of \$50/person, just click the link below:



[Click Here for Website](#)

then click “BOOK NOW” at the bottom of the page.

You can also mail a check to Fresno Sigma Chi Endowment, P.O. Box 7803, Fresno CA 93727-7803. If mailing a check, please note your guest’s name on the check so we can prepare a name tag.

Your payment for the event may be tax deductible since our endowment is a 501c3.

LET’S TALK CLOVIS: THE HONORABLE PHILLIP V. SANCHEZ

By Peg Bos

<https://www.clovisroundup.com/lets-talk-clovis-the-honorable-phillip-v-sanchez/>

WHITE ROSE CEREMONY DON ORMSBEE

By Mike Patton, (63-S) Order of Constantine & Significant Sig

Brother **Don Ormsbee** (66-S) entered the Chapter Eternal on November 20, 2022 and was laid to rest on January 28, 2023. Don’s brother, **Bill Ormsbee** (70-F), lead the White Rose Ceremony at the end of the service which was held in Sacramento.



2022 Derby Days Murals at Chapter House

Sigma Chi Derby Days began at Fresno State in 1966 when **Gary Renner** (62-S) proposed starting it at an Inter-Fraternity Council meeting, and it has been a tradition ever since. **Joe Pressutti** (64-F) was the first Derby Daddy.



Contributed by Gary Renner – Yes, Joe was the first Derby Daddy. Once I got Derby Day approved, I worked on details of Derby Day but asked Joe if he would be the Derby Daddy and he agreed. Joe and I planned out what we wanted to do and where. Then I did the behind the scenes organizing, as well as working with the university administration to make sure we had approvals for all we wanted to do. And Joe worked with the sororities – he got the tough duty, ha!



Part of the Derby Days tradition is for Fresno State sororities to paint murals on the block fence adjacent to the parking lot. Some of these murals are stunningly beautiful, and they have become part of the culture for our Active Chapter. Take a look at them the next time you are at the Chapter House.



FRESNO SIGMA CHI BUSINESS DIRECTORY NOW AVAILABLE

*Contributed by Mike Patton, 63-S
Order of Constantine & Significant Sig*

We have completed the 1st phase of the Fresno Sigma Chi Business Directory, and it has been distributed to the 230 brothers who have participated so far. If you would like a PDF copy please email me at mike@rmpatton.com.

The purposes of the directory are:

- To get to know our brothers by knowing what they majored in during their university years and what they are doing now.
- To allow us to patronize our brothers.

- To provide a means to mentor undergraduate brothers who have similar interests or majors.

If you would like to participate, please provide the following information:

- Your degree(s) or majors
- The company where you work or the last place you worked before retirement
- Your title or position
- Your work phone (or cell phone if more convenient)

If you are retired, please note this. I'll use me as an example: BS-Mechanical Engineering, MBA, Patton Air Conditioning, President/Owner-Retired, None

So far 230 brothers responded to the request for information. I was blown away by the number of brothers who had post-graduate degrees (94), who were owners (80), who were presidents or vice presidents (68) and who were licensed professionals (83). It would be easy to conclude that Fresno State Sigma Chi had initiated an impressive list of brothers over the last 70 years.

Maybe I shouldn't be surprised at the level of success of our Epsilon Eta brothers:

*Approximately 80% of the top executives of Fortune 500 companies are fraternity men. 76% of current United States Senators and Congressmen are fraternity men. 100 of 158 cabinet members since 1900 have been fraternity men. 40 of 47 Supreme Court Justices since 1910 have been fraternity men.-
Jan 23, 2020.*



Sigma Chi Alumni Chapter of Fresno

Alumni Business Directory

January 1, 2023

Email: fresnosigs1952@gmail.com

Website: <https://www.fresnosigsalumni.org>

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 7803, Fresno, CA 93727-7803

This directory is provided as a tool to stay connected as alumni of The Sigma Chi Fraternity. Our goal is to sustain the spirit of brotherhood and enhance the luster of the White Cross.

This information is for personal and private use. It is prohibited to be used for marketing or other business promotion and gain. Thank you for your ongoing support to provide updates of any changes to your personal information or that of other alumni with whom you are in contact. Please email data corrections to fresnosigs1952@gmail.com. Thank you for upholding the high standards of the Sigma Chi Fraternity.

All Honor To His Name

Click on underlined names for links to tribute pages

Jerry Evangelho (58-S), August 6, 2022

Lance David Hairabedian (82-F) October 20, 2022

Stephen J. Huffman (71-F), November 15, 2022

Richard E. Leach (64-S), December 7, 2022

Don Ormsbee, (66-S), November 20, 2022

Clair Ridge, (52-T) November 9, 2022

Robert Russell, (54-S), April 17, 2022



Consider a memorial donation to the White Rose Memorial Scholarship Fund. Donations can be made from our website, <https://fresnosigsalumni.org> or sent directly to the Fresno State Alumni Association:

<https://fresnosigsalumni.org/donation>

Sigma Chi White Rose Memorial Scholarship Fund
% CSUF Alumni Association
2625 E Matoian Way, SH124
Fresno, CA 93740

2022-23 Dues and Donations

Dues are \$50.00 and donations for 07/01/22 to 06/30/23 are being accepted.

Online payments can be accepted today at:

www.fresnosigsalumni.org/product/alumni-membership

Checks payable to the Sigma Chi Alumni Chapter of Fresno can be mailed to PO Box 7803, Fresno, CA 93747-7803.

[Download 2022-2023 Dues Appeal Form Here](#)

Dues and donations support our activities, events, newsletter production and distribution. Dues also allowed us to host five Active Chapter Brothers at our monthly meetings, provide Sigma Chi branded graduate stoles, support Derby Days, recruitment and other unplanned situations.

Current Alumni Members List

July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023

(as of February 17, 2023)

1950's

Homer Potts 52-T; ***Tony Flores***, *Bob Buckenberger*,
Jim Green^{^*}, Byron Justus, Joe Monachello,
*Frank Small**, Ron Weiner, Leo Wilson
& Norm Winslow.

1960's

Mike Alaga, Tom Barham, Dave Barnes,
Greg Baxter, Don Beauregard, Tom Beggs,
Dale Blickenstaff, John Borasi, *Richard Bratz*,
Marv Broderson, Jim Calandra, Larry Calvino^{^@},
Steve Crawford, Rob Crossland, ***Tom Downing***,
Michael Elliott, E. Enns, Richard Fox, John Garcia,
Colin Kelly, Bob Koligian, Gary Kuhl, *Ron LaRocca*,
Buck Levis, Jeff Linder, *John Marinovich***,
Bill Matesso, Rick Nelson*, Ron Nelson, Jim Norquist,
Dan O'Brien, ***Mike Patton****, Wes Qualls**,
Gary Renner, Don Ruiz, Dennis Schmal,
Mark Scott^{@^*}, Jack Tacchino, James Tatum,
Ted Tuckloff, ***Tim Vaux*** & Don Witzansky

1970's

David Arakelian, *Dick Arakelian*, Bill Arnold***,
Stephen Bachand, Amos Bagdasarian, Pat Beggs,
Bruce Berger, Peter Britton, *Mike Chin*,
Steve Coleman, Mike Crowley, Kenny Duncan,
Russ Efird**, Bruce Ekmanian, Ken Esraelian,
Brad Fischer, ***Jon Gallinetti***, Mike Gallo,
Bob Garavello, *Rodney Gavroian*, Tony Guerriero**,
Doug Haas, Wade Hedrick, *Marv Helon**,

Jon Hollenbeck, **Darryl Horowitz**, *Jim Hutton*,
Kenny Jelacich*, *Rich Klopstein*, Tom Kusaka,
Tom Licouris, *Michael Lynch**, Paul Porter,
Bruce Quan, **Bill Robinson**, Mark Sanchez,
Jim Sandrini, Glenn Scott, **Bill Smittcamp***^**,
Bob Soligian^**, Larry Spikes, Kyle Stephenson,
Gary Tremblay, Chris Visser*, Steve Vucovich^,
Kirk Wethey, Kevin Wren, Richard Wright
& Wayne Yamagiwa

1980's

Tim Ganatta, Randy Garabedian, Michael Green,
Alan Hansen, T.A. Heckel, Don Heckman*,
John Hughes, *Mark Jason*, *Justin Kempton*, Jeff Little,
Brian Lockhart, Chris Morse, Mike Price, Mike Riggs,
Matthew Rowan, Doug Sampson, Darin Tockey
& Les Walker.

1990's

Brandon Cohrs, Pat Geil, David Folly, Jeff Hibbard,
Nathan Labiak, Preet Purewal & Billy Purewal.

2000's

Chad Calhoun, *Aaron Encinias*, Matt Helon
& Titus Moore.

2010's

Jared Bertoni, Tyler Davies, David Dickstein, Dusty
Lacefield & Scott Moore

One-Year Complementary Membership

Welcome to our one-year complimentary members
from the **Fresno State Class of 2022**:

*Jordan Ayerza, Sham Batth, Taj Gill,
Raj Johal, Nolan Long, Connor Martinez,
Matthew Morillas, Gio Primavera, Christian Reta,
Gabe Rodrigues, McKay Romero & Nick Sheehan.*

**Order of Constantine, Significant Sig
Headquarters Award**

Consuls who served Epsilon Eta

+ Chapter Eternal

* Plus \$0-\$50, donation Alumni Chapter

**Plus \$51 -\$150 donation Alumni Chapter

***Plus \$151 or more donation Alumni Chapter

^ Donation Endowment Fund or White Rose Memorial Scholarship

@ Donation to the Housing Corporation

PAST ARTICLES YOU MAY HAVE MISSED

EPSILON ETA 100 YEARBOOK AVAILABLE

[Click Here for Information](#)

ARGUMENT FOR THE GREEK SYSTEM

[Click Here for Article](#)

NEWSLETTER ARCHIVE

[Click Here for Article](#)

JOB OPENING POSTING BOARD

***Have openings and would like the Alumni and Active
Chapter Brothers to take advantage of them? Email us
at fresnosigs1952@gmail.com and we'll get the word
out!***

Save The Date!!!

ALUMNI DINNER MEETING

March 2023 Alumni Chapter Dinner Meeting

Thursday March 16, 2023, 6:00 PM

Old Spaghetti Factory - Fresno

Speaker - Jeff Tedford

Head Coach, Fresno State Football

7th ANNUAL WINETASTING EVENT
APRIL 22, 2023
At the home of John and Susan Ballenger
(See Above for Details)

ALUMNI DINNER MEETING
April 2023 Alumni Chapter Dinner Meeting
Thursday April 20, 2023, 6:00 PM
Old Spaghetti Factory - Fresno

ALUMNI DINNER MEETING
May 2023 Alumni Chapter Dinner Meeting
Thursday May 18, 2023, 6:00 PM
Old Spaghetti Factory - Fresno
Speaker - K.C. Chen
Former Chair, Finance & Business Law,
Craig School of Business
and
Chief Investment Officer
R. Stephen Heinrichs Trading Room

Visit our events calendar for other upcoming activities:
<https://www.fresnosigsalumni.org/events>

SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS

FACEBOOK – SIGMA CHI ALUMNI – FRESNO STATE
<https://www.facebook.com/FresnoStateSigmaChi>

LINKEDIN – FRESNO STATE SIGMA CHI PROFESSIONAL NETWORK
<https://linkedin.com/groups/13688055>

SIGMA CHI REACH OUT App

Sigma Chi has created a mobile device App for Active and Alumni members. Topic include Get Help Now; Law Enforcement & First Responders; Alcohol and Drugs; Prevention Education and



many others. Look in your mobile device store for the following App.

For those iPhone users: <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/sigma-chi-reach-out/id1472427192>

Sigma Chi Scholarship & House Corporation Donations

You can now make scholarship donations using our website.

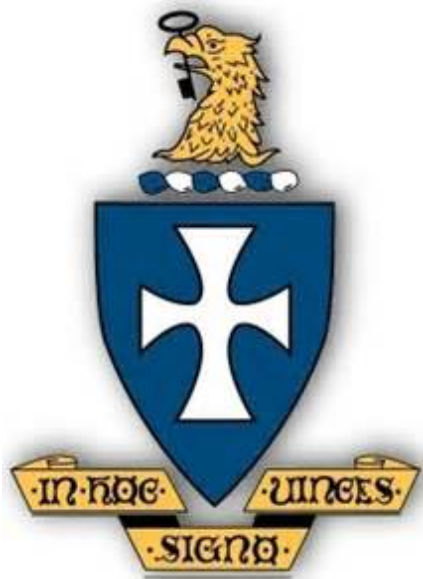
<https://fresnosigsalumni.org/product/alumni-membership>

Sigma Chi's Highest Honor

Visit our website to view the list of honorees of the Order of Constantine, Significant Sig and Seven Lights Alumni Award.

<https://fresnosigsalumni.org>





Sigma Chi Alumni Chapter of Fresno | P.O. Box 7803, Fresno, CA 93727

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