

November 2023



# ***Sig-Nificant News***

Monthly Newsletter - November 2023  
Sigma Chi Alumni Chapter of Fresno

## **FEATURED**

### **CAROL D. MCNEIL**

*Epsilon Eta's First Sweetheart*

<https://www.neptunesocietyfresno.com/obituary/carol-mcneil>

### **OUTSTANDING ALUMNI AWARD**

*See Article Below*

### **RODGER JENSEN (T-52)**

*Past Fresno Sigma Tau Premier (Consul)  
interviewed at 103 years old*

*See Article Below*

### **SAVE THE DATE**

*7th Annual Wine Tasting*

*See Article Below*

### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

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

### **ALUMNI DUES/DONATIONS**

*July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024*

[www.fresnosigsalumni.org/product/alumni-membership](http://www.fresnosigsalumni.org/product/alumni-membership)

# **President's Message**

*Contributed by Brad Fischer (78-S)*

**My Brothers,**

**This is the month to be thankful for many things. Thank you to the board members of the Alumni Chapter, Endowment, House Corporation, and many, many others of you who make an impact on Sigma Chi at Fresno State.**

**We thank our dues and donation supporters for sustaining the Alumni Chapter to accomplish much and keep in touch with you. Finally, we appreciate our Active Chapter brothers for carrying on the long-standing tradition of Sigma Chi at Fresno State. They represent that the world expects more of Sigma Chi's than that of other men.**

**God's speed my brothers and guard well the White Cross of Sigma Chi.**

**In Hoc Signo Vincas,**

**Brad**

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

**(559) 287-1392**

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[fresnosigs1952@gmail.com](mailto:fresnosigs1952@gmail.com)

<http://fresnosigsalumni.org>

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*"The confidence of the Founders of Sigma Chi was based upon a belief that the principles which they professed and the ideal of the Fraternity which they sought were but imperfectly realized in the organizations which they were*

## *In Remembrance*



*Carol D. McNeil*

*January 30, 1934 - October 10, 2023*

**"Dignity and Grace"**

The night before Carol was to start classes at Fresno State, she went on a blind date with young college transfer Order of Constantine Oran McNeil (52-T) and after that the two were inseparable.

Oran and Carol married on June 13, 1953, and were married 65 years. Carol joined Delta Gamma Sorority and was the first sweetheart of Sigma Chi Fraternity at Fresno State. Carol graduated from Fresno State in 1955 with a Bachelor's Degree.

Read more:

<https://www.neptunesocietyfresno.com/obituary/carol-mcneil>

***Brad Fischer, Alumni President,***

# given Outstanding Alumni Award

By Mike Patton, (63-S) Order of Constantine, Significant Sig & President of the Fresno Sigma Chi Endowment. [mike@rmpatton.com](mailto:mike@rmpatton.com)



At our alumni dinner on November 16, second-in-command, **Bill Robinson** (70-F) Presented Significant Sig and Seven Lights Alumni **Brad Fischer** (78-S) with Epsilon Eta's Outstanding Alumni Award, only the ninth in our alumni chapter's history. For the last 20 years Brad has been a strong supporter of our Active Chapter, Alumni Chapter, House Corporation, and our Endowment. His participation and leadership have significantly impacted the success of our chapter, and has made Sigma Chi the envy of the other fraternities on the Fresno State campus.

Brad held the Alumni Chapter together during periods of waning interest by Fresno Sig alumni. His involvement with the House Corporation has

influenced its success in creating and maintaining the Fresno Sigma Chi Chapter House so that it is the most functional, well-kept, and financially sound fraternity house on the Fresno State campus. Brad attends House Corporation board meetings as an ex-official member by virtue of his position as Alumni Chapter President. He often attends Endowment meetings and always has important and relevant input.

Past awardees include **Marv Meyers** (54-S), **Leo Wilson** (55-F), **Bill Robinson** (70-F), **Warren Williams** (61-S), **John Ballinger** (65-S), **Sergio Ilic** (87-F), **T.A. Heckel** (82-F) and **Bill Smittcamp** (73-S).

This award recognizes alumni who over a long period of time have exhibited a high level of commitment, dedication, and service to the Epsilon Eta Chapter. They have also not been awarded the Sigma Chi International Fraternity Order of Constantine.

## ***Housing Corporation Update***

*Contributed by John Ballenger (65-S)*

**As we head into my favorite part of the holiday season, I just want to wish all of you the best Thanksgiving possible! It's a wonderful time to share with family, friends, and of course...the food is awesome!**



**We are in decent shape over at the house. There are now 17 active brothers living in with 3 others considering moving in. We survived an inspection by a company commissioned by national headquarters in conjunction with our RMF insurance package. I**



believe we did extremely well, and the report will come in a week or so.

Many thanks go to our live-in active brothers and property manager Ed Higuera. They collectively did a fantastic job of preparing for the inspection.

This month's shout out goes to brother Marvin Broderson (S '63) for his generous donation to our housing corporation. For those who know Marv should know that he and Toni moved from Danville to Prescott, Arizona to be near their son and daughter's families.

As always...It's Great To Be A Sig!

John Ballinger ('65-S)  
Housing Corporation President

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## ***Active Chapter Report***

*Contributed by Nicholas Davis, Chapter Editor*

**As we near the end of the semester, the brothers of Epsilon Eta have been enjoying it every step of the way. We are pleased to welcome 15 new members in Fall 23. Magister Trey Wood has done a great job to ensure all 15 of these men meet the criteria of being a Sigma Chi and are sure to bring new luster to the White Cross. On another note, last Thursday a group of brothers visited Fresno State president Saul Jimenez-Sandoval at his free speech booth to thank him for all his work he does for the campus.**

**President Jimenez had this to say, "(Sigma Chi is) the most organized and well put together organization on campus by far." We appreciate this praise from our campus president and look to continually live by the standards that garnered this praise.**

**In Hoc Signo Vinces,  
Nicholas Davis, Chapter Editor**

## **FRESNO SIGMA TAU PREMIER INTERVIEWED AT 103 YEARS OLD**

*By Mike Patton, (63-S) - Order of Constantine, Significant Sig &  
President of the Fresno Sigma Chi Endowment  
[mike@rmpatton.com](mailto:mike@rmpatton.com)*



Fresno's KGPE features brother **Rodger Jensen** (52-Tau) speaking of his World War II experience. Brian Dorman who conducted the interview noted "That interview will go down in the top five of the most meaningful of my career. What an honor it was to share Rodger's story!"

**See the videos at:**

[https://www.yourcentralvalley.com/news/local-news/the-last-mission-selma-wwii-veteran-looks-back/?utm\\_source=ksee-kgpe\\_app&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_content=share-link](https://www.yourcentralvalley.com/news/local-news/the-last-mission-selma-wwii-veteran-looks-back/?utm_source=ksee-kgpe_app&utm_medium=social&utm_content=share-link)

<https://www.yourcentralvalley.com/news/local-news/how-this-wwii-veteran-went-from-serving-the-nation-to-his-community>

# **SAVE THE DATE**

*By Mike Patton, (63-S) - Order of Constantine, Significant Sig & President of the Fresno Sigma Chi Endowment  
[mike@rmpatton.com](mailto:mike@rmpatton.com)*

**This year the wine tasting will take place in brother John Ballinger's beautiful backyard at 9846 North Yorktown Drive in Fresno from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM on Saturday, April 27, 2024. Brother T.A. Heckel always donates each of the wines we taste, and they all are pulled from his private cellar. Attire is casual.**



## ***Sigs in the News***

**Zachary “Zach” Worden (11-F)** and former Consul, joins the San Francisco based crop intelligence company Arable as the new head of sales.



# 2022-23 DUES & DONATIONS

Contributed by Mark Scott (69-F)

*Dues are \$50.00 and donations for 07/01/23 to 06/30/24 are being accepted.*

*Online payments can be accepted today at:*

[www.fresnosigsalumni.org/product/alumni-membership](http://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 2023-2024 Dues Appeal Form Here](#)

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**Note: This chart shows the names of all Brothers who have paid dues received during the last 12 months, as of November 10, 2023.**

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## 1950's

Homer Potts 52-T; **Tony Flores**, *Bob Buckenberger*, **Jim Green**<sup>^\*</sup>, Rodger Jensen\*, Byron Justus, Joe Monachello, *Frank Small*\*, Ron Weiner, **Leo Wilson**\*, & Norm Winslow.

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## 1960's

Mike Alaga\*, Alex Audelo, John Ballinger, Dave Barnes, **Greg Baxter**, Don Beauregard, Tom Beggs, Dale Blickenstaff, John Borasi, *Richard Bratz*, Jim Calandra, Larry Calvino<sup>\*^@</sup>, *Joe Chappell*, Steve Crawford, Rob Crossland, **Tom Downing**<sup>\*\*\*</sup>, Michael Elliott, John Garcia, Dexter Hardcastle, **Colin Kelly**, Bob Koligian, Gary Kuhl, *Ron LaRocca*, Jeff Linder, *John Marinovich*<sup>\*\*</sup>, **Bill Matesso**, Ed Musolff\*, Rick Nelson\*, Ron Nelson, Jim

Norquist, Dan O'Brien, *Steve Pallios*, **Mike Patton\***,  
Wes Qualls\*\*, *Art Renney*, **Dave Reuland**,  
Don Ruiz, Dennis Schmal, Mark Scott@^\*,  
Brian Stout, Jack Tacchino, James Tatum,  
Ted Tuckloff, **Tim Vaux** & Jerry Waters\*,  
Don Witzansky.

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## 1970's

David Arakelian, *Dick Arakelian*, Bill Arnold\*\*\*,  
Amos Bagdasarian, Pat Beggs, Bruce Berger,  
*Norm Bishop*, Peter Britton, *Mike Chin*, Gerald  
Chooljian, 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, Rob Hauser\*,  
Wade Hedrick, *Marv Helon\**, Darryl Horowitt,  
*Jim Hutton*, Larry Johnson, Kenny Jelacich\*,  
Dave Kandarian, *Rich Klopstein*, Tom Licouris,  
*Michael Lynch\**, *George Matoian*, *Mark Pasculli*,  
Paul Porter, Bruce Quan, **Bill Robinson**, Don Ruiz,  
Mark Sanchez, Jim Sandrini, Glenn Scott,  
**Bill Smittcamp\*\*\*^**, Bob Soligian^\*\*, Larry Spikes,  
Kyle Stephenson, Gary Trembley, Walt Trembley,  
Bill Van Skike, Chris Visser\*, Steve Vucovich^,  
Kirk Wethey, Kevin Wren, Richard Wright,  
Wayne Yamagiwa & *Chris Yocum*.

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## 1980's

Joel Armstrong, Richard Bambauer,  
Randy Garabedian, Marc Graham, Mike Green,  
Alan Hansen, T.A. Heckel, John Hughes,  
*Marc Jason*, Jeff Little, Brian Lockhart, Chris Morse,  
Mike Price, Mike Riggs, Matthew Rowan,

Mike Rush, Doug Sampson & Darin Tockey.

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## 1990's

Rob Bell, Kenneth Eynaud, David Folly, Donny Gill,  
*Nathan Labiak & Preet Purewal.*

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## 2000's

Chad Calhoun

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## 2010's

Jared Bertoni, Mike Colgate, Tyler Davies,  
Dusty Lacefield & Donnie Mayjoffo.

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Welcome our one-year complimentary membership,  
Fresno State Class of 2023 – Trent Benevedes,  
Christian Cruz, Travis Hansen, Tyler Hansen,  
Bassel Khoury, Luke Karagozian, Adam Peters,  
Seth Preheim, Victor Rosas, Christopher Sousa,  
Matthew Tatum & Jordan Vasquez.

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### **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

# **ALL HONOR TO HIS NAME**

**07/01/2023- 06/30/2024**

*(Click the Name for Obituary Information)*

**Robert D. Smith (54-F) June 21, 2023**

**Paul Hokokian** (73-S) June 27, 2023

**Gary Zarounian** (75-S) July 12, 2023



## ***SAVE THE DATES***

**2024 Alumni Chapter Dinner Meetings**  
**Old Spaghetti Factory, Fresno**

**No-host cocktails followed by dinner.**

**Thursday, January 18, 2024**

**6:00 PM PT – Alumni Chapter Dinner Meeting**

**Thursday, February 15, 2024**

**6:00 PM PT – Alumni Chapter Dinner Meeting**

**Guest Speaker: Rolston St. Hilaire, Dean, Jordan College of  
Agricultural Sciences and Technology**

**Thursday, March 21, 2024**

**6:00 PM PT – Alumni Chapter Dinner Meeting**

**Thursday, April 18, 2024**

**6:00 PM PT – Alumni Chapter Dinner Meeting**

**Guest Speaker: Kent Willis, VP Student Affairs**

**Visit our events calendar for other upcoming  
activities:**

**<https://www.fresnosigsalumni.org/events>**

## ***MEMORIAL BRIDGE PROJECT***

Plans continue 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 details to follow.



## ***PAST ARTICLES YOU MAY HAVE MISSED***

<https://www.fresnosigsalumni.org/newsletter-archive>

## ***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

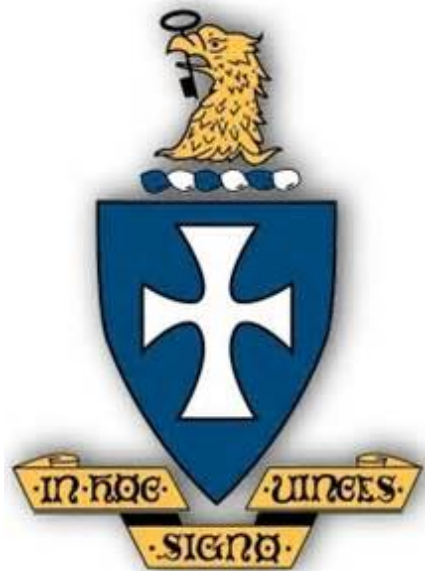
You can now make scholarship donations using our website.

<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>



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