

December 2023



Sig-Nificant News

Monthly Newsletter - December 2023
Sigma Chi Alumni Chapter of Fresno

FEATURED

NEWS FROM RON LAROCCA (61-S)
SEE ARTICLE BELOW

MOSS ADAMS LLP HONORED
SEE ARTICLE BELOW

VETERAN TO COMMUNITY LEADER
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

President's Message

Contributed by Brad Fischer (78-S)

My Brothers,

As another year comes to a close may this holiday season be one of traditions and fond memories of the past. May the New Year bring strength to those not as strong and continued success to all.

Thank you to those brothers who continue to contribute to these monthly communications. I hope you have enjoyed keeping in touch with your Alumni Chapter. A reminder to see past articles on our website and the link can be found at the bottom of today's newsletter.

May the White Cross of Sigma Chi and the principals of our Fraternity continue to be your guide.

In Hoc Signo Vincas,

Brad

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

(559) 287-1392

fresnosigs1952@gmail.com

<http://fresnosigsalumni.org>

"In my judgment our Fraternity has grown to be what it is, by adhering to the principle with which we started in the beginning, of admitting no man to membership in it who is not believed to be a man of good character, of fair ability, of ambitious purposes, and of congenial disposition." Issac M. Jordan, Founder

NEWS FROM RON LAROCCA (61-S)

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

The Oakland Triad helped brother **Dan O'Brien** (61-F) with the founding of the Little Sigmas at Fresno State in 1962. The Triad included **Ron LaRocca** (61-F), **Tom Oliver** (61-F) and **Bob Rich** (61-F). Tom served as Consul during the fall 1962 semester while Ron served as his Pro Consul. Then Tom was Magister for the spring 1963 pledge class, and Ron served as Consul. Bob was the perennial unofficial Social Chairman for the Triad. Unfortunately Tom entered the Chapter Eternal some years ago.



Left to Right: Ron LaRocca, Tom Oliver and Bob Rich

Well time passed, and a few years ago Ron moved from Atlanta to San Diego. Now Ron reports that his granddaughter is a freshman at Tulane University in New Orleans and is a Bio-Medical Engineering major. She told Grandpa Ron that the Sig House

there is the biggest and best with the best parties. It has about 120 actives and about 30 pledges. Ron recalls that Epsilon Eta had 122 actives and 33 pledges when he was Consul.

The 61-F pledge class included 4 Consuls, 3 Pro Consuls, a Magister, a Quaestor, a senior class vice president, an interfraternity rush chairman, a varsity baseball player, 2 varsity basketball players, a varsity football player, a varsity track member, a college newspaper sports editor and a brother named to Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges 1963-64. Of the original 26 in their pledge class, 14 are still with us. They include **Dave Barnes, Joe Chappell, Larry Costa, John Gridler, Ron LaRocca Fred McPherson, Bill Miller, Dan O'Brien, Bob Rich, Dennis Riley, Ed Sowers, Jim Tatum, Rollin Winslow, and Bob Wold.**

MOSS ADAMS LLP HONORED

Named Best Accounting Firm In Central Valley

By Mike Patton, (63-S) Order of Constantine, Significant Sig & President of the Fresno Sigma Chi Endowment.

mike@rmpatton.com

Several Epsilon Eta Sigs call accounting firm, Moss Adams LLP, their home. Kyle Stephenson 72-F retired a few years ago. Today the Fresno office is lead by Chris Morse 83-F who is the current managing partner. Also with the firm are Doug Sampson 84-F and former Consul and current Chapter Advisor, Gio Primavera 17-F.



Gio Primavera (L) Helps to Accept Best Accounting Firm Award

The best of the Central Valley were in attendance Tuesday evening, December 5, 2023, at Pardini's in Fresno for the tenth annual Best of Central Valley Business Readers Choice Awards. The Business Journal hosts the annual event to recognize Central Valley businesses and their community engagement efforts. Voters were able to choose their favorite candidates in 40 categories ranging from food and hospitality to retail and government.

Housing Corporation Update

Contributed by John Ballenger (65-S)

With the holidays come final exams and the end of the fall semester. There are

currently 19 “reindeer” living in the house. Not a creature is stirring, not even a mouse. Well, we can’t quite say that.



We had a very successful fall and are looking forward to the spring semester. So, to our team of board members I say... “On Dasher (Steve Coleman), on Dancer (Mark Springer), on Prancer (Titus Moore), and Blitzen (Grant Petersen).... On Comet (Julian Ramos), and Cupid (Evan Selander), it’s time for turkey and fixens!”

I want to take this time to also thank all of you who have supported our housing corporation, and we wish you all the merriest of Christmases, or however you celebrate the holiday season, and the happiest of New Years!!

John Ballinger ('65-S)
Housing Corporation President

Active Chapter Report

Contributed by Nicholas Davis, Chapter Editor

As the holiday season approaches, we at Epsilon Eta wish a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all. The beginning of the holidays also means the end of the semester, which means finals approach, and we have been students of fair ability in our studies, looking to ace all of our exams. On another note, many of the brothers volunteered recently at Christmas Tree Lane during the last couple weeks to raise money for charities. It was a great experience for all involved. As we wrap up the semester, we

again wish everyone a happy holiday season.

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

Serving His Country Then Serving His Community

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



Brother Rodger Jensen (52-T) Provides Scholarships to Fresno State AG Students Again, Brother Jensen is interviewed by KGPE, the interview took place on November 9, 2023. Brother Jensen discussed his career in agriculture. Read the articles and watch the videos at:

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

Bill Smittcamp Featured in CVLUX Magazine

***By Mike Patton, (63-S) - Order of Constantine, Significant Sig &
President of the Fresno Sigma Chi Endowment***

mike@rmpatton.com



Significant Sig, Bill Smittcamp 73-S, and his company were featured in this beautifully designed magazine. The article goes all the way

back to when Bill's father, Earl, was discharged from the Marines in 1945.

Please read the entire article by clicking on the link below and arrowing to pages 44-45:

https://issuu.com/eddiemelikian/docs/cvlux_nov_2023_final_online

SAVE THE DATE

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

Once again, 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.



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

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](#)

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

1950's

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

1960's

Mike Alaga*, Alex Audelo, John Ballinger, Dave Barnes, **Greg Baxter**, Don Beauregard, Tom Beggs, Dale Blickenstaff, John Borasi, *Richard Bratz*, Marv Broderson, Jim Calandra, Larry Calvino^{*^@}, *Joe Chappell*, Steve Crawford, Rob Crossland, **Tom Downing**^{***}, Michael Elliott, John Garcia, Dexter Hardcastle, **Colin Kelly**, Bob Koligian, Gary Kuhl, *Ron LaRocca*, Jeff Linder, *John Marinovich*^{**}, **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.

1970's

David Arakelian, *Dick Arakelian*, Bill Arnold***, Steve Bachand, Amos Bagdasarian, Pat Beggs, Bruce Berger, *Norm Bishop*, Peter Britton, *Mike Chin*, Gerald Chooljian, Steve Coleman, Mike Crowley, Mark Ducas, 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 Horowitz, *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, Serge Tomassian, Gary Trembley, Walt Trembley, Bill Van Skike, Chris Visser*, Steve Vuovich^, Kirk Wethey, Kevin Wren, Richard Wright, Wayne Yamagiwa & *Chris Yocum*.

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.

1990's

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

2000's

Chad Calhoun, Matt Helon

2010's

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

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.

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

[Bob Kerley](#) (61-S) July 2016

[Rich Church](#) (62-S) January 14, 2020

[Jeffrey Perenon](#) (66-F) August 3, 2018

[Don Berg](#) (67-F) December 10, 2017

[Jim Irick](#) (68-F) April 5, 2016

[Chris Yocum](#) (74-S) November 27, 2023

[Paul Hokokian](#) (73-S) June 27, 2023

[John Hovannisian](#) (73-F) December 6, 2023

[Gary R. Millier](#) (75-S) February 1, 2018

[Gary Zarounian](#) (75-S) July 12, 2023



Thank you to Brother Patton for researching archives and located brothers who entered the Chapter Eternal in the past.

**WHITE ROSE SCHOLARSHIP FUND:
PAYABLE TO THE FRESNO STATE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
2625 E MATOIAN WAY M/S SH124
FRESNO CA 93740-8000**

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>

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

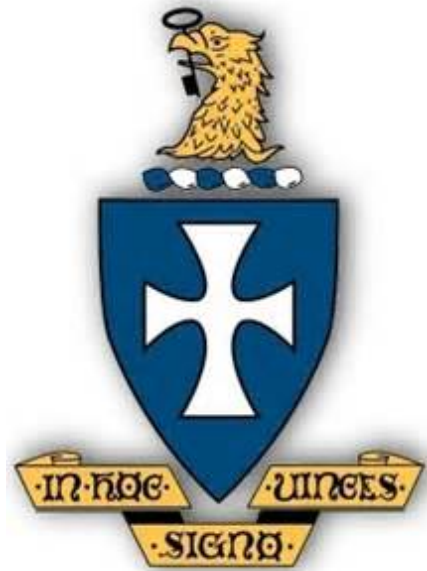
You can now make scholarship donations using our website.

<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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