August 2024



SIG-NIFICANT NEWS

FEATURED

ALL HONOR TO HIS NAME

ED BOSWELL 58-F

JIM CALANDRA 60-S

DAVE JENSEN 67-S

SEE ARTICLES BELOW

AMBASSADOR SANCHEZ MEMORIAL SIGN UPDATE

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LEO WILSON (55-F)
A NEW BEAT ON LIFE

SEE ARTICLE BELOW

DEFENDIS FAMILY
AWARD PRESENTED

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,

After quite a journey we are very close to the public unveiling and then installation of the Memorial Sign on State Highway 41 to honor Brother Phil Sanchez (52-T). This idea was developed by a committee convened following the passing of Brother Sanchez.

I worked with Significant Sig & Chapter Eternal **Elvin Bell (57-F) and Order of Constantine** Bill Robinson(70-F) for several years to accomplish this worthy honor. Please see the article below.

Schools across the country have started their new academic year. Your alumni chapter has an exciting Fall Alumni Dinner meeting schedule. We will celebrate the Semi Century Sigs of 1974 and have some great meeting programs ahead.

Once again, thank you to our dues payers and

those who add donations. You make a difference and one example is the article below from Consul Caden Shows (22-F).

The White Cross of Sigma Chi ideals are lofty ambitions for us all. Use each day as an opportunity in personal and professional life to apply these principals.

In Hoc Signo Vinces,

Brad

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

(559) 287-1392

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

"Throughout these difficult times, our brothers, undergraduates and alumni alike have shown the resiliency of the human spirit"

Steven Schuyler, Arizona 1979, 71st Grand Consul

www.sigmachi.org/history

Housing Corporation Update

Contributed by John Ballinger, (65-S) Housing Corporation President



With this edition comes the beginning of a new school year. Our 14 active brothers who lived in this summer survived some extremely warm conditions. With their cooperation we were able

to significantly reduce our PG&E bill from last years record total!

We begin the fall semester with a "full house" of 24 brothers! We will soon be having our annual meeting regarding contracts and our expectations. The house floors have all recently been steam-cleaned, and some "new" furniture donated by Bill Robinson, is in place.

Here's to a successful 2024-25 school year! If you are looking for a way to make a difference, ask about joining our housing corporation board. It doesn't require that much time. It's great to be a Sig!

In Hoc,

John Ballinger ('65-S)
Housing Corporation President

Active Chapter Update

Contributed by Harrison Alessini, Chapter Editor

The brothers of Epsilon Eta have had a great summer and are excited to get back to the grind of school. Some exciting news to report is our chapter house is full this semester with all rooms filled.

Once again, we thank our wonderful alumni that provide scholarships and support our brothers and chapter that have allowed some brothers to live in the chapter house nearly rent free and allow them to focus more on academics and building the lifelong relationships that so many brothers before us have made.

We are looking forward to Fall Rush at the end of September and hopefully adding many new members to our chapter.

In Hoc Signo Vinces, Harrison Alessini | Chapter Editor

KRACH WORKSHOP APPRECIATION

By Caden Shows, (22-F)
Epsilon Eta Consul 2023-2024

Recently, four of us I had the privilege of going to Bowling Green, Ohio for the KRACH Leadership Training Workshops. The alumni of the Epsilon Eta chapter were generous enough to pay for our flights, which made this trip possible us.

While at the workshop, we were able to learn about how to be a better man inside and outside of the Fraternity. We discussed the true definition of "masculinity" as there are several different characteristics of masculinity. Google defines masculine as being aggressive. This is not a true characteristic. Masculinity can be a provider, who is strong, confident, motivated, etc. Never had we really paid attention to the true definition of what masculinity represents, but always associated with being tough or in a negative light. This was one of many characteristics we discussed in our workshops, however it made the biggest impact on us.

Having attended this workshop also brought us closer to other fraternity brothers who were in attendance. We learned about other campuses and their fraternity lives. It was like meeting our family for the first time and having so much in common. We gained brothers who we can reach out to anytime we want to talk or run ideas by.

They had questions about our lives in central California, as we had questions for them who live in other parts of our country. The fact that we were all tied together in the brotherhood of Sigma Chi was an experience I will never forget.

This experience went above and beyond anything I expected. It helped me to grow as a leader and to take what I learned about leadership and use it for the rest of my life. This amazing trip would not have been possible without you, the alumni of Sigma Chi at Fresno State. Again, thank you so much for this opportunity.

ALL HONOR TO HIS NAME Edward Boswell (58-F)

By Helen-Hong Boswell - abbreviated and edited

Edward Leland Boswell was born on June 6, 1940 to Vern Boswell & Esther Fogle in Modesto, CA. His parent's moved from Nebraska to Van Nuys California to seek a better life.

The family moved to Palmdale where Ed attended high school. Ed then went to Fresno State University, where he joined the Sigma Chi Fraternity. He loved the Christian values, philosophy of the brothers and always had many fun stories to tell. He cultivated many lifelong friends.

After graduation he worked for Wang Computers, IBM, and Digital Equipment Corporation/Compaq in sales. He had numerous successes in sales including establishing the first computer banking systems for Bank of America and AirTouch/Verizon for the first cellular Operating systems.

Ed and Helen met in 1992 in Costa Mesa. Since retiring in 2003, they have traveled to more than 65 countries, learning about the different cultures and their way of life. After vacationing in Hawaii for many, many years, they became full time residents of Hawaii in 2008.

In January 2024, Ed & Helen moved back to Santa Clarita, CA where he could be closer to UCLA Hospital to treat his pancreatic cancer. He fought a long, brave and difficult battle alongside his UCLA team of physicians. He passed away on July 20, 2024.

Ed is survived by his wife, Helen, daughter, Kerry & her 2 sons Aidan & Kieran, Son Marc, his wife Miharu and their son Nolan & daughter Sora.



ALL HONOR TO HIS NAME James P. Calandra (60-F)



James P. Calandra, known as Jim to his family and friends, passed away peacefully at his home in Seaside, CA on July 22, 2024 with his wife Karen at his side. He was 82 years old.

Known in the Monterey community as the friendliest accountant around, Jim practiced accounting as an independent CPA for nearly 60 years. He took great pride in making life easier

for all that knew him, family, friends, and clients alike.

Born in Fresno, CA, Jim attended CSU Fresno where he received his BA in Accounting and met his wife, Karen. They were married for 62 years and raised two daughters together. Jim leaves behind his wife Karen (Seaside, CA) and daughters Lisa Corinne Jason (Denver, CO) and Juliette "Jette" Ferguson (Carmel Highlands, CA), as well as son in laws, M. Marc Jason and Kurt Ferguson and Grandson, Ross Jason.

Jim was a member of the Sigma Chi Fraternity in college, helped establish the Monterey Bay Alumni Chapter, and served as its first President. He was a devoted Rotarian and served as President of the following Rotary Clubs: Central Marin-Corte Madera, CA; Fresno Metropolitan, CA; Pacific Grove, CA; & Kihei-Wailea, HI.

Jim served as a President of The Pacheco Club of Monterey. He was also active in the Chaîne des Rôtisseurs and the International Food & Wine Society of the Monterey Peninsula, the Paisano Club, and both the Beach Club of Pebble Beach and the Spanish Bay Club. Jim loved swimming (a 50 year passion) and could be found doing laps most days.

Jim & Karen lived in: Fresno, CA; Marin County, CA; Bloomfield Hills, MI; Monterey County, CA; and Wailea-Kihei, HI. However, Monterey County was the "home of his heart," for more than 30 years.



ALL HONOR TO HIS NAME Dave Jensen (67-S)

by Mark Scott (69-F)



A Celebration of Life for Brother Dave Jensen will be held on Saturday, September 7, 2024, at Copper River Golf Club at 11:00 A.M. Brother Jensen was the owner of J. D. Jensen Builders. He and Linda retired to Lake Tahoe.

He was a former Consul, Derby Daddy, Kickoff Dance Chair, 49er Celebrity Game Chair, Greek Sing Team Captain, Sigma Chi Golf Tournament Chair, IM Athlete of the Year (football, basketball, softball, volleyball), and always the brains behind the Derby Week Scavenger Hunt. More to follow.

Details:
Copper River Golf Club
2140 E. Clubhouse Drive
Fresno CA 93730
11:00 a.m. / Casual Attire



LEO WILSON (55-F): A NEW BEAT ON LIFE
By Saint Agnes Medical Center



Twelve years ago, Leo Wilson, a Central Valley native and well-known home builder and developer, started experiencing fatigue and would wake up gasping for air at night. Over the years, it got to the point where he could hardly move.

In 2023, Leo's wife felt something was wrong and called for an ambulance. He was taken to Saint Agnes Medical Center's Emergency Department where doctors discovered he was suffering from heart failure and needed emergency surgery.

"I came in and went straight up to the floor and then they started putting stints in my mitral valves," Leo says.

He was suffering from mitral valve regurgitation – a condition in which the mitral valve does not close properly. In a healthy heart, blood moves from the heart to the body and then back to the heart. For patients with mitral regurgitation, the mitral valve, which acts as the door between the body and heart, does not function properly, disrupting the blood cycle.

Three days after surgery, Leo was walking and able

to return home to continue his recovery. Two months after his procedure, he was able to start attending Saint Agnes' Cardiac Rehabilitation and Lifestyle Program. He quickly began to feel like himself again.

See the complete story:

https://www.samc.com/newsroom/blog-articles/new-beat-life

Hear the story in Leo's own words:

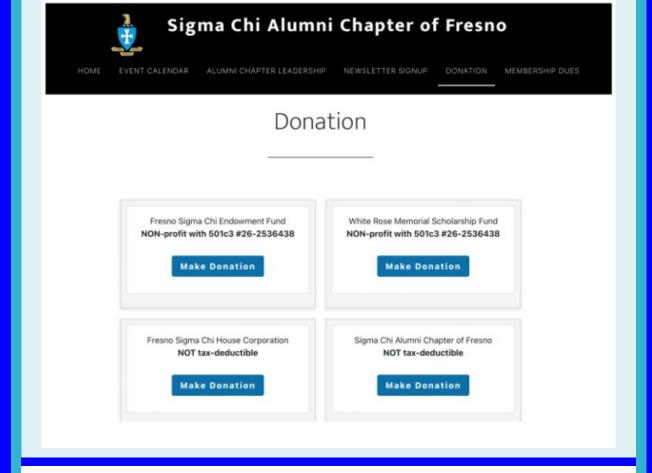
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Bj5l8GelX8

FRESNO SIGMA CHI ALUMNI CHAPTER REFRESHES WEBSITE

Contributed by Mike Patton, (63-S) Order of Constantine, Significant Sig & President of the Fresno Sigma Chi

Our website has been updated to have a refreshed look, to be more stable and to make payment for events and donations easier. In addition to the button at the top of the home page that links to dues payment, the donation page has been simplified.

Take a tour at: https://fresnosigsalumni.org



2024-2025 DUES & DONATIONS

Contributed by Mark Scott (69-F)

Dues are \$50.00 and donations for 07/01/24 to 06/30/25 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.

Note: Dues Appeal Form for 2024-2025 is now available:

Download 2024-2025 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 August 15, 2024.

1950's

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

1960's

Mike Alaga, John Ballinger***, Dave Barnes, Don Beauregard, Tom Beggs, Dale Blickenstaff, John Borasi, *Richard Bratz*, Lindsay Brehm, Marv Broderson***@, Jim Calandra, Larry Calvino*@, *Joe Chappell*, Steve Crawford, Rob Crossland, Larry Dorsey*, *Tom Downing*^***, Michael Elliott, Elwood Enns, John Garcia, Dexter Hardcastle, *Colin Kelly****, Bob Koligian*, *Ron LaRocca*, Jeff Linder, *John Marinovich***, Dan Mueller, 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***@, James Tatum, *Tim Vaux****, Jerry Waters^***, Matt Wittkins**, Don Witzansky.

1970's

David Arakelian**, *Dick Arakelian*, Bill Arnold***, Steve Bachand, Amos Bagdasarian, 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, Tony Guerriero*, Doug Haas, Rob Hauser*,

Wade Hedrick, Marv Helon*, Jon Hollenbeck, Darryl Horowitt, Jim Hutton*, Larry Johnson, Kenny Jelacich*, Dave Kandarian, Rich Klopfstein, Tom Kusaka, Tom Licouris, Mike Lorenzen, 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 Vucovich, Kirk Wethey, Kevin Wren,

Richard Wright & Wayne Yamagiwa.

1980's

Greg Anderson, Joel Armstrong, Richard Bambauer, Randy Garabedian, Marc Graham, Mike Green, Alan Hansen, T.A. Heckel, John Hughes, Sergio Ilic, Marc Jason, Jeff Little, Brian Lockhart, Chris Morse, Mike Price, Mike Riggs, Matthew Rowan, 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, & Frank Puccio.

2010's

Mike Colgate, Tyler Davies, Dusty Lacefield, Donnie Mayjoffo & Scott Moore.

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

DEFENDIS FAMILY WINS LARGE BUSINESS AWARD FOR 2024

<u>By Mike Patton, (63-S)</u> Order of Constantine, Significant Sig & President of the Fresno Sigma Chi

Brother Christian DeFendis (16-S), his father Mike, uncle Matt and Sigma Chi cousin **Dalton DeFendis** (13-F IX) was honored by the Business Journal on August 9, 2024.

2024 FOBA Winner - Large Business Category - DiBuduo and DeFendis Family as a Core Value



From left: Christian, Mike, Matt and Dalton DeFendis keep the father and son tradition alive at DiBuduo & DeFendis Insurance

Read the entire article here:

https://thebusinessjournal.com/2024-foba-winner-large-business-category-dibuduo-defendis-family-as-a-core-value/?mc_cid=9f0fa6e147&mc_eid=957c834949

AMBASSADOR PHILLIP V SANCHEZ HIGHWAY 41 MEMORIAL BRIDGE UPDATE

Ambassador Phillip V. Sanchez MEMORIAL BRIDGE

The memorial bridge sign will then be installed on Highway 41 at Alluvial Avenue to honor Order of Constantine, Significant Sig, first Epsilon Eta Consul, Ambassador **Phillip V Sanchez** (52-T).

We have the encroachment permit from Caltrans and the memorial signs are in storage at Alert-O-Lite.

A committee is meeting later this month to discuss plans for a September public unveiling of the Ambassador Philip V Sanchez Memorial Bridge sign at Pinedale Elementary. Look for an email invitation in early September.

Donations over \$10,000 were received from Headquarters Award recipients and others to make this memorial possible. Also, the largest donor was the Amb. Sanchez Charter High School II in Fresno and operated by Learn4Life. In May the Clovis Unifed School District named their newest middle school in honor of Ambassador Sanchez.

Thank you to the following donors:

Rodger Jensen (52-T)

Order of Constantine & Significant Sig **Tony Flores** (56-S)

Significant Sig Dante Simi (58-F)

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

Order of Constantine **Tom Downing** (62-F)

Significant Sig Colin Kelly (62-F)

Significant Sig **Jim Green** (58-S)

Significant Sig **Dante Simi** (58-F)

Significant Sig Tim Vaux (66-F)

Significant Sig Jon Gallinetti (70-F)

Significant Sig Bill Smittcamp (73-S)

Significant Sig Brad Fischer (78-S)

Seven Lights Alumni Award Jerry Waters (62-F)

William T Bringham House Corporation Officer Award **John Ballinger** (65-S)

Mike Gallo (70-F)

Mark Sanchez (70-F)

Alumni Chapter Treasurer Mark Scott (69-F).

SAVE THE DATE

2024 Alumni Chapter Dinner Meetings

Old Spaghetti Factory, Fresno No-host cocktails followed by dinner.

Thursday, September 19, 2024
6:00 PM PT – Alumni Chapter Dinner Meeting
Speaker: Kent Willis
VP Student Affairs

Thursday, October 17, 2024
6:00 PM PT – Alumni Chapter Dinner Meeting
Speaker: Garrett Klassy
Newly-Appointed Athletic Director

Thursday, November 15, 2024
6:00 PM PT – Alumni Chapter Dinner Meeting
Significant Sig Presentation:
Dana McManus (70-F)

Visit our events calendar for other upcoming activities:

https://www.fresnosigsalumni.org/events

PAST ARTICLES YOU MAY HAVE MISSED FROM EPSILON ETA COLLECTION AT FRESNO

STATE

JOHN BALLINGER – 2024 SEVEN LIGHTS ALUMNI AWARD HONOREE

By Brad Fischer, (78-S)
Significant Sig & President, Fresno Alumni Chapter
bsfischer937@gmail.com



The Seven Lights Alumni Award is presented by the Sigma Chi Fraternity to alumni members who have demonstrated significant service to the Fraternity over a ten-year period. Currently only twenty-four can be awarded annually. Epsilon Eta now has six Seven Lights alumni with the announcement of our 2024 honoree **John Ballinger** (65-S).

John has displayed positive participation and impact on our Active Chapter and support to the Alumni Chapter. He has been an active participant in our local Fresno Alumni Chapter activities since 2008 and an annual payer of dues. His leadership since 2015 as President of the Housing Corporation has achieved many milestones that provide a safe and healthy environment for our Active Chapter. They include the highly acclaimed solar installation, HVAC replacement, remodel of bathrooms and showers, exterior lighting and security cameras, window replacements, front yard renovations and

HVAC efficiency. In 2019 John was the recipient of the headquarters William T Bringham Outstanding Corporate Officer Award.

As a result of his leadership, in 2023 and 2024 a Gold rating was awarded to the House Corporation by RMF. This success was achieved while collaborating with the Active Chapter for fairness in lease arrangements and housing standards. Also, he is a strong advocate for firm alcohol policy in the House. John strives to maintain sound financial policies to insure a balanced budget.

Also, John serves or served on the 70th Epsilon Eta Anniversary Committee, Alumni Awards Committee, Fresno Sigma Chi Endowment Committee, and annual Wine Tasting Committee. He also provides valued updates to our alumni brothers at our monthly dinner meetings.

Please join me in recognizing John for this high level of achievement.

1974 SEMI CENTURY SIG MEMBERS - 2024

By Brad Fischer, (78-S)

Significant Sig & President, Fresno Alumni Chapter bsfischer937@gmail.com

The International Sigma Chi Fraternity proudly recognizes brothers as a Semi-Century Sig attesting to his membership of 50 years duration.

At our Fall Alumni Chapter dinner meetings, a certificate and lapel pin will be presented to the following Class of 2024 honorees who we have contact information.

Fall 1974: Anthony "Tony" Guerreiro, Wade

Hedrick, Richard Klopfstein, Robert "Rob" Morrow, Paul Porter, Robert "Bob" Rife, Jr., Serge Tomassian, Kirk Wethey, & Kevin Wren

Contact us at fresnosigs1952@gmail.com if you are not listed and worthy of this recognition. Honors will be mailed in December for those not able to attend an Alumni Chapter dinner meeting.



L-R: Tony Guerriero (74-F), Kirk Wethey (74-F), Robert Morrow (74-F), Paul Porter (74-F), Kevin Wren (74-F), Richard Klopfstein (74-F), Wade Hedrick (74-F) & Bruce Quan (72-F) Epsilon Eta's 70th Anniversary Celebration

Epsilon Eta Collection at Fresno State

We have recharged our efforts to build a collection of Sigma Chi Epsilon Eta materials at the Special Collections Department at the Fresno State Library. The following is a partial list of items:

Three Sigma Tau pledge paddles (Order of Constantine **Oran McNeil** 52-T & **Dick Beers** 52-T)

Archive items from Gene Andrade 56-F, Order of Constantine Bill Matesso 63-F, Order of Constantine Chuck Sant'Agata 56-S and Order of Constantine Glenn Sheets 52-T

First Outstanding Pledge Award paddle 1952-1961 (donor Warren Williams 61-S donor and last brother listed

70th Epsilon Eta & 100th Sigma Tau Anniversary items

Your Alumni Chapter donated on your behalf to cover the cost of archival storage containers and fees for these items. A fund has been established at the Fresno State Foundation for the Sigma Chi Collection at the Fresno State Library. You can donate at:

https://securelb.imodules.com/s/1692/lg23/form.aspx ?sid=1692&gid=2&pgid=2469&cid=4681&amount=

Select University Library and note Sigma Chi Collection

ALL HONOR TO HIS NAME

07/01/2024- 06/30/2025

- * Edward "Ed" Boswell (58-F) July 20, 2024
- * James "Jim" Calandra (60-S) July 22, 2024
- * David "Dave" Jensen, Jr. (67-S) July 20, 2024
 - (*) Notes those added this month.



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

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

NEWSLETTER ARCHIVE

FACEBOOK - SIGMA CHI ALUMNI - FRESNO STATE 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-reachout/id1472427192

Sigma Chi Scholarship & House Corporation Donations

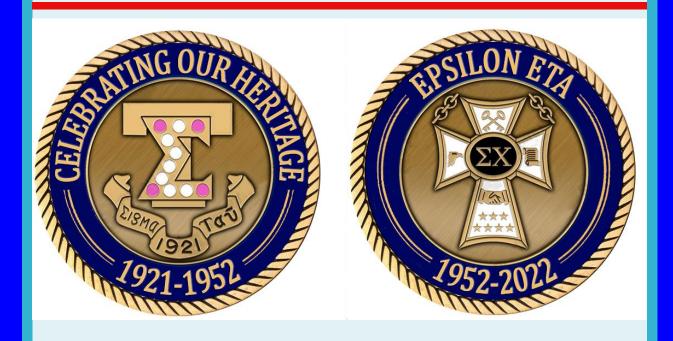
You can now make scholarship donations using our website.

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 US

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