March 2026

Sigma Chi

FRESNO ALUMNI CHAPTER

SIG-NIFICANT NEWS

FEATURED

SUPPORT WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

SEE ARTICLE BELOW

9TH ANNUAL WINETASTING

SUPPORT EPSILON ETA CHAPTER HOUSE

SEE ARTICLE BELOW

WINEMAKER, BROTHER PASCULLI (81-F)

SEE ARTICLE BELOW

SIGMA CHI 1954 VETERANS MEMORIAL TREE

SEE ARTICLE BELOW

SUPPORT 2026 DERBY DAYS

Visit www.derbydays.org

SEE ARTICLE BELOW & DONATE TODAY!

ALL HONOR TO THEIR NAME

JULY 1, 2025 – JUNE 30, 2026
Darrell Voth (68-S) February 18, 2026
SEE LISTING BELOW

SIG NEWS

Bill Smittcamp (73-S) retires as bank director
Send any Sig news to fresnosigs1952@gmail.com

PAST ARTICLES YOU MAY HAVE MISSED

SEE ARTICLE BELOW
Celebration of Brotherhood
Support the Sigma Chi Archive at Fresno State

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

https://www.fresnosigsalumni.org/events

ANNUAL DUES/DONATIONS

July 1 2025 to June 30, 2026 – Annual $60.00
See listing below
www.fresnosigsalumni.org/product/alumni-membership

President's Message

Contributed by Brad Fischer (78-S)



Worthy Brothers:

On March 21, our Spring 2026 Initiation brought seven new members into the brotherhood of Sigma Chi Fraternity. Please join us in welcoming Anthony Adame, Michael Beaton, Sebastian Boydall, Carlos

Castillo, Jonah Craven, Nicholas Needhum, and Cutler Williams as the newest brothers in our fraternity.

For local alumni, there are just two remaining opportunities this spring to attend an alumni dinner event. Mark your calendars for April 16 and May 21. The May event will be especially memorable as Julie Olson-Buchanan, the first female Dean of the Craig School of Business and a distinguished tenured faculty member and leader at Fresno State, will be our guest speaker. This is an occasion you will not want to miss!

Thanks to the dedication of our members—through their time, talent, and treasure—Sigma Chi Fraternity continues to be the premier fraternity at Fresno State. Will you help add new luster to the White Cross?

Friendship, Justice, and Learning

In Hoc Signo Vinces,

Brad

Brad S. Fischer (78-S)
Order of Constantine & Significant Sig
Cal State - Fresno 1981
President

(559) 287-1392

fresnosigs1952@gmail.com
http://fresnosigsalumni.org

"Brother Sigma's, we belong to a society worthy of our highest regard and warmest affection. We are united in the strong and enduring bonds of friendship and esteem." **Isaac M. Jordan, Founder**

www.sigmachi.org/history

SUPPORT WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Those who missed the March Alumni Dinner event, missed an all-star program. We featured Women's Basketball Head Coach Ryan McCarthy and Assistant Coach Jenna McCarthy. The McCarthy's married in 2019 and have two young children, Donovan and Aurora.



Thank you to **Larry Spikes** (75-F) for arranging our coaches to join us! Brother Spikes serves as President of the Bulldog Foundation.

It was an overwhelming engagement by the brotherhood of the impressive two coaches. **Mark Scott** (69-S) challenged those us to purchase season tickets. Let him know if you would like to do the same and the Sigma Chi's can sit together.

Those in attendance suggested a concentrated support for the program. Send your donation for Women's Basketball to your alumni chapter or make a direct donation to the program through the Bulldog Foundation Valley Co-Op site. https://www.bulldogfoundation.org/valleyco

For those alumni chapter donations, we will find a way to make an appearance to present the funds we receive.

Making history, the coaches were presented with our centennial medallions. The first Women's basketball coach and husband and wife team to receive this honor.



Left to right. Jenna McCarthy, Ryan McCarthy & Brad S. Fischer

9TH ANNUAL WINE TASTING

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

Date: April 25, 2026
Time: 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM
$75/person (limited to 125 participants).
Location: John & Susan Ballinger's Home, 9846 N Yorktown Drive, Fresno, CA 93720
Dress code: Casual

The 9th annual Sigma Chi wine tasting will be held at brother Ballinger's residence and will again feature brother T.A. Heckel's personal wines.

Entry fees and raffle ticket proceeds will again go into our endowment. However, proceeds from the silent auction will go directly to the House Corporation to make emergency water damage repairs. The Chapter House is Epsilon Eta's most important icon, so please be prepared to bid up the auction items.

Brother Warren Williams (61-S) is generously offering his Cambria home for the silent auction once again this year. The winning bidder will enjoy a vacation week in Cambria at 398 Bristol, located in Park Hill just 1,000 feet from the ocean. The selected week in 2025 will be arranged directly with the owner.



This charming split-level home offers three bedrooms and two bathrooms, providing comfortable accommodations for guests. Situated within walking distance to Shamel Park, the beach, the village, and Moonstone Beach, the location is ideal for exploring Cambria's scenic surroundings.

The home features an open living room, dining area, and kitchen layout, creating a spacious and inviting atmosphere. These areas seamlessly connect to a large outdoor deck, equipped with outdoor furniture and a gas barbecue, perfect for entertaining or relaxing outdoors.

Both the living area and patio offer breathtaking views of the ocean, the Santa Lucia Mountains, and the historic Hearst Castle, providing a picturesque backdrop for your stay.

The master bedroom is furnished with a king-size bed, a private bathroom, and its own porch overlooking the surf. The remaining two bedrooms are spacious, each featuring queen-size beds and

sharing a bathroom, ensuring comfort and convenience for all guests.



The house comes equipped with Roku streaming and Wi-Fi, allowing guests to easily access their favorite shows and online content. Additionally, there is Chrome Cast and an HDMI cable provided, enabling you to stream directly from your computer

to the TV screen. The home also features a DVR for recording and watching programs at your convenience.

For parking, a one-car garage is available that can accommodate an SUV with ample ground clearance, offering a secure and convenient option for your vehicle during your stay.

Cambria is home to a variety of gourmet restaurants, including Robin's, Lynn's, Madeleine's, Sea Chest (cash only), and Indigo Moon. For a casual experience, the fast-food Main Street Grill is a local favorite and is well-known throughout the area.

Click on the button below to register and purchase raffle tickets:

Click Here

MARK PASCULLI (81-F) ATTENDING WINE TASTING

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

Brother Mark Pasculli (81-F) and wife Lori are coming to Fresno from Eagle, ID to attend the 9th annual Sigma Chi wine tasting. Mark and Lori own Rolling Hills Vineyard located in Garden City, ID where they make delicious wines from grapes grown in the area.



For the last several years Mark has graciously donated his wines for our silent auction, and several of us have been purchasing his wines from their website. Please welcome Mark and Lori when you meet them at the tasting. You can learn more about the winery at ***https://rollinghillsvineyard.com***

Click on the button below to register and purchase raffle tickets:

Click Here

VETERANS MEMORIAL TREE AT FRESNO STATE

Just southeast of the Memorial Fountain at Fresno State you will find a tree with a memorial plate that reads: IN MEMORY OF THE F.S.C. VETERANS OF ALL WARS SIGMA CHI ALUMNI 1954.

This area is known as the Memorial Court. Many trees have similar memorial signs and there are two rows of annual class cement benches.



HOUSING CORPORATION ARTICLE

Contribued by John Ballinger (65-S)

It's hard to believe that we only have a month and a half left in their spring semester. There are fourteen brothers living in with two other moving in soon. The house remains orderly as it awaits the beginning of our renovation project at semester's end.

This month's shout out goes to brother Mike Colgate (F '14). Mike came over to the house and repaired a

couple of breaks in our irrigation lines earlier this month. The sliding glass door in the front has been replaced, as have two bedroom windows. A new washing making has also been installed.

Our fund drive to secure more donations to help pay for house updates and repairs has stalled out at this time. We currently sit at $18,000 with our goal set at $50,000 in order to collect a matching amount from Michael “Kabong” Patton. Repairs begin in about seven weeks!

In Hoc,

John Ballinger (S ’65)
House Corporation President

CHAPTER REPAIR UPDATE!



Thanks to all of our brothers who have contributed to date!! With one brother contributing a five-figure gift, and two others adding four figure donations, we have collected over $18,000 to date. The dilemma is that contributions have slowed down to a standstill. In two months we will move forward and make as many repairs as possible with the capital raised so far.

Projects to include:
Repairing and the front wooden pillars of dry rot.
Replacing damaged wooden roof trim.
Replacing the wood/glass of the front bay windows.
Installing all new rain gutters.
Removing and replacing any other dry rotted areas.
Repainting the first floor interior.
And…there will always be unforeseen issues!

Donations can be made to the **Sigma Chi Fraternity Housing Corporation** at:
https://www.fresnosigsalumni.org/donation

You can mail your check to us at PO BOX 25723, Fresno CA 93729. Also, our Venmo account is: **@SigmaChi-HousingCorp**

Please contact me at 559-779-8998, or ***johnballinger3@gmail.com*** with any questions or additional information needed.

In Hoc,

John Ballinger (S'65)
Housing Corporation President

2025-2026 DUES & DONATIONS

Contributed by Mark Scott (69-F)

Dues are $60.00 and donations for 07/01/25 to 06/30/26 are being accepted.

Online payments can be accepted today:
Click Here for Membership Information

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 2025-2026 is now available:

Download 2025-2026 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 March 10, 2026.

1950's

JJerry Bender, *Bob Buckenberger,* Butch Charlebois, ***Tony Flores****, ***Jim Green****, Rodger Jensen***, Byron Justus, Joe Monachello, Homer Potts, Rich Rose, Dante Simi***, *Frank Small**, Ron Weiner, ***Leo Wilson**@** & Norm Winslow.

1960's

John Ballinger***@, Dave Barnes, *Greg Baxter*, Don Beauregard, Tom Beggs, Dale Blickenstaff, *Richard Bratz*, Lindsay Brehm, Marv Broderson***@, Larry Calvino*@, *Joe Chappell*, Steve Crawford, Rob Crossland, Larry Dorsey*, ***Tom Downing****, Pete Eliopulos, Michael Elliott**@, Elwood Enns, John Garcia, *Richard Harris*, Greg Johnson, ***Colin Kelly****, Bob Koligian*, *Ron LaRocca*, Jeff Linder, *John Marinovich***@, Bill Matesso, Fred McPherson, Ed Musolff**@, Ron Nelson, Jim Norquist, Dan O'Brien, ***Mike Patton****@, Wes Qualls**@, Gary Renner, Art Renney@, ***Dave Reuland,*** Don Ruiz@, Dennis Schmal***@, Mark Scott***@, Brian Stout***@, Jack Tacchino, James Tatum, James Underhill, ***Tim Vaux***@, Jerry Waters*** & Don Witzansky.

1970's

David Arakelian***, *Dick Arakelian*, Bill Arnold***, Steve Bachand, Amos Bagdasarian, Bruce Berger, *Norm Bishop*, Peter Britton, *Mike Chin*, Gerald Chooljian, Mike Chooljian, Steve Coleman, Mike Crowley**@, Kenny Duncan, Richard Egan***, Bruce Ekmanian, Ken Esraelian*, ***Brad Fischer****,

Jon Gallinetti**, Bob Garavello, Rod Gavroian, Tony Guerriero*, Doug Haas, Rob Hauser, Wade Hedrick, *Marv Helon***@, Darryl Horowitt, *Jim Hutton**, Kenny Jelacich**, *Rich Klopfstein,* Larry Johnson, Tom Kusaka, Tom Licouris, Mitch Long, *Michael Lynch*, George Matoian,* ***Dana McManus****, Robert Morrow,* Paul Porter***@, Bruce Quan, ***Bill Robinson***, Mark Sanchez***, Jim Sandrini, Glenn Scott, ***Bill Smittcamp****, Larry Spikes, Kyle Stephenson, Mark Talens, Serge Tomassian, Walt Trembley, Bill Van Skike, Chris Visser***, Steve Vucovich, Kirk Wethey, Kevin Wren, Richard Wright & Wayne Yamagiwa.

1980's

Joel Armstrong, Mike Falgo, Barry Foley, Randy Garabedian*, T.A. Heckel, John Hughes, Frank Huttlinger (San Diego St.), Sergio Ilic, *Marc Jason*, Justin Kempton, Jeff Little, James McCorkle, Bill Miller, Chris Morse, Mike Riggs, Matthew Rowan, Mike Rush, Doug Sampson, Matthew Simonian & *Steve Smith*.

1990's

Rob Bell, Brandon Cohrs, Kenneth Eynaud, David Folly, Marc Forth, Donny Gill, *Nathan Labiak*, Davindar Mahil, Sam Mann, James McCann, Robert Paley & Preet Purewal.

2000's

Chad Calhoun, *Aaron Encinias,* Joe Hart, Matt Helon & *Mike Sandrini.*

2010's

Mike Colgate, Christian DeFendis, Zachary Gavroian, Dusty Lacefield, Scott Moore & Samuel Slosman.

Welcome our one-year complimentary membership, Fresno State Class of 2025 – Eric Barrera, Caleb Gretlein, Jordan Martinez, Anthony Reynoso, Andy Stewart, Austin Tuell, William Ventura-Hernandez.

***Order of Constantine, Significant Sig,* Headquarters Award**
Consuls who served Epsilon Eta
**** Plus $0-$50, donation Alumni Chapter***
*****Plus $51 -$150 donation Alumni Chapter***
******Plus $151 or more donation Alumni Chapter***
@ Donation to the Housing Corporation

SIGS IN THE NEWS

On February 20, 2026, Significant Sig Bill Smittcamp (73-S) has announced his retirement effective March 31. Brother Smittcamp joined the board during the bank's early days and worked with most of its original founders and all four CEO's. Over his 39 years, he provided continuity and institutional knowledge while supporting the company's community banking mission, according to the news release.



File Photo: Bill Smittcamp (left) and former Central Valley Community Bank (now known as Community West Bank) CEO James Ford, accepting the 2020 Family Owned Business Award on behalf of Wawona Frozen Foods.

DERBY DAYS 2006
NEW WEBSITE - DONATE TODAY

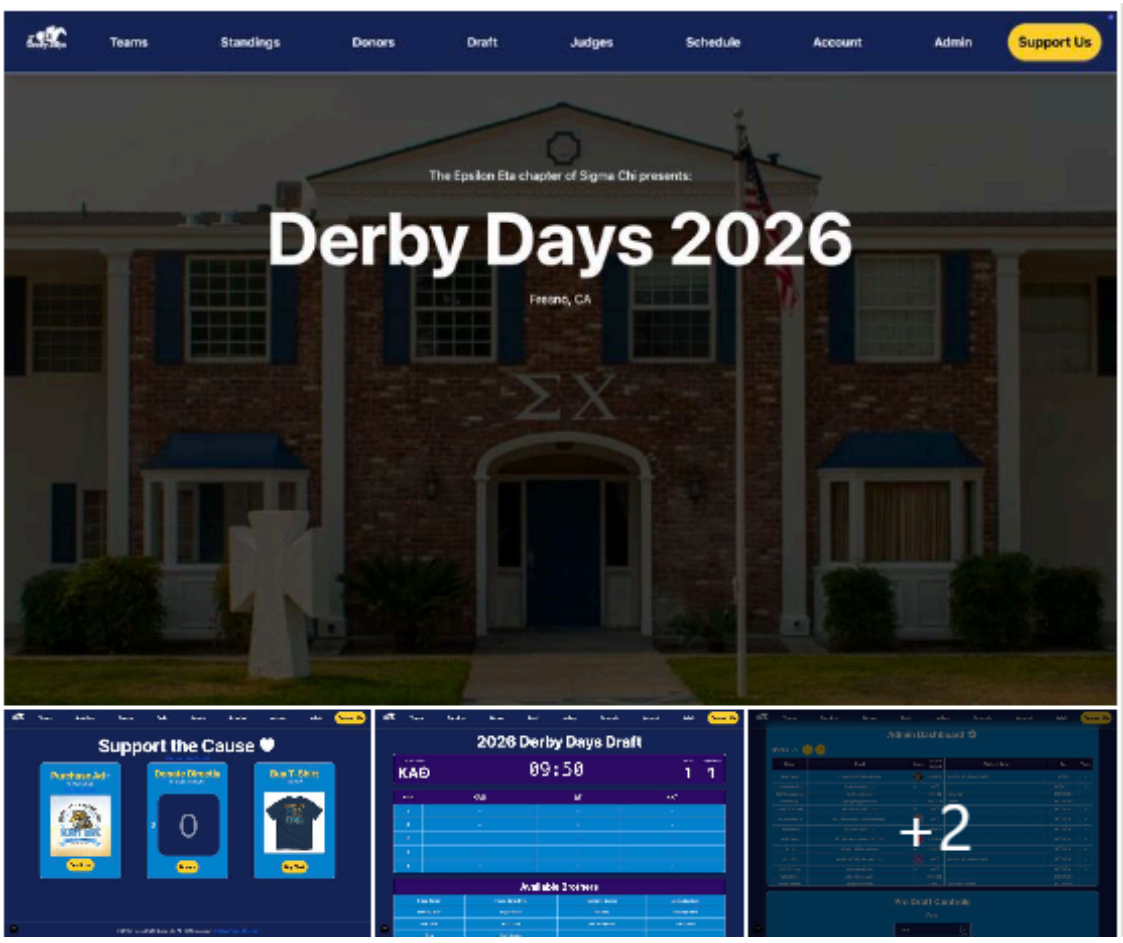
By Nick Davis (22-F)

For the past 60 years, my fraternity, Sigma Chi at Fresno State, has hosted an annual, month long philanthropy called Derby Days to support Valley Children's Hospital. It brings together multiple sororities in a competitive, high-energy effort to raise money for a cause that matters deeply to our community.

As Derby Days grew, the systems behind it didn't. The event relied on spreadsheets, manual updates, and disconnected tools to manage donations, teams, ad sales, and logistics which made it increasingly difficult to scale and keep participants engaged in real time.

That experience led me to build ***derbydays.org***, a centralized web app I've been developing over the past 7 months to run the entire philanthropy in one place. The platform supports donation tracking, ad and t-shirt sales, live standings, team and user management, and even a live fantasy sports–style draft for one of the events.

More details:
https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7415081979068534784/



www.derbydays.org

MORE FEEDBACK ABOUT PAST CONSUL ED SOWERS

After reading about Ed Sowers entering the Chapter Eternal, Brother Brian Stout (63-S) sent this note:

“Ed and I were in Basic Training, Advanced Individual Training and OCS together. When we were in AIT in Virginia it was over the holiday season. Cold, windy 10-foot ice hanging from the roofs. We were given a 10-day pass, had little money but lots of thoughts. Ed had some family in

Shrewsbury Mass. We purchased a 1958 Buick, bought 2 cases of oil, and headed off to visit. Spent one night in New York at a EX house (no, I do not remember) and moved on to Shrewsbury. We had Christmas dinner and stayed a couple of days, then back to Virginia. Somehow, we made it, sold the car, and were out 2 cases of oil and fuel. was quite an adventure. Was sorry to hear he has moved on, ALL HONOR TO HIS NAME." In Hoc Brian



L-R Brian Stout, Marv Broderson - August 1968

SAVE THE DATE

2026 Alumni Chapter Dinner Events

Old Spaghetti Factory, Fresno

No-host cocktails followed by dinner.

Thursday, April 16, 2026
6:00 PM PT – Alumni Chapter Dinner Event
Old Spaghetti Factory, Fresno

Saturday, April 25, 2026
3:00 - 6:00 PM PT
9th Annual Wine Tasting Event
Ballinger Residence
9846 N. Yorktown Drive
Fresno CA 93720

Use this link to register and purchase raffle tickets
Click Here

Thursday, May 21, 2026
6:00 PM PT – Alumni Chapter Dinner Event
Old Spaghetti Factory, Fresno

Guest Speaker:
Julie Olson Buchanan, Dean
Craig School of Business, Fresno State

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

ALL HONOR TO THEIR NAME

07/01/2025 - 06/30/2026

***ROBERT "BOB" CARSTENS** (57-F) December 15, 2024

TED M POLLARD (58-F) 2025 Date unknown

ED SOWERS (61-F) December 23, 2025

DENNIS SHAVES (62-F) June 15, 2025

WILLIAM C. (BILL) DONAGHY (60-F) June 17, 2025

JIM NASH (54-F) July 3, 2025

BUCK LEVIS (60-F) August 3, 2025

JOHN TULLY (96-S) Delta Xi Chapter - July 27, 2025

GARY HICKOK (71-F) November 22, 2025

ZETH THORNING II (65-F) May 5, 2024

(*) **DARRELL VOTH** (68-S) February 18, 2026

(*) Notes those added this month.

Names underlined are links to obituaries on memorial sites



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

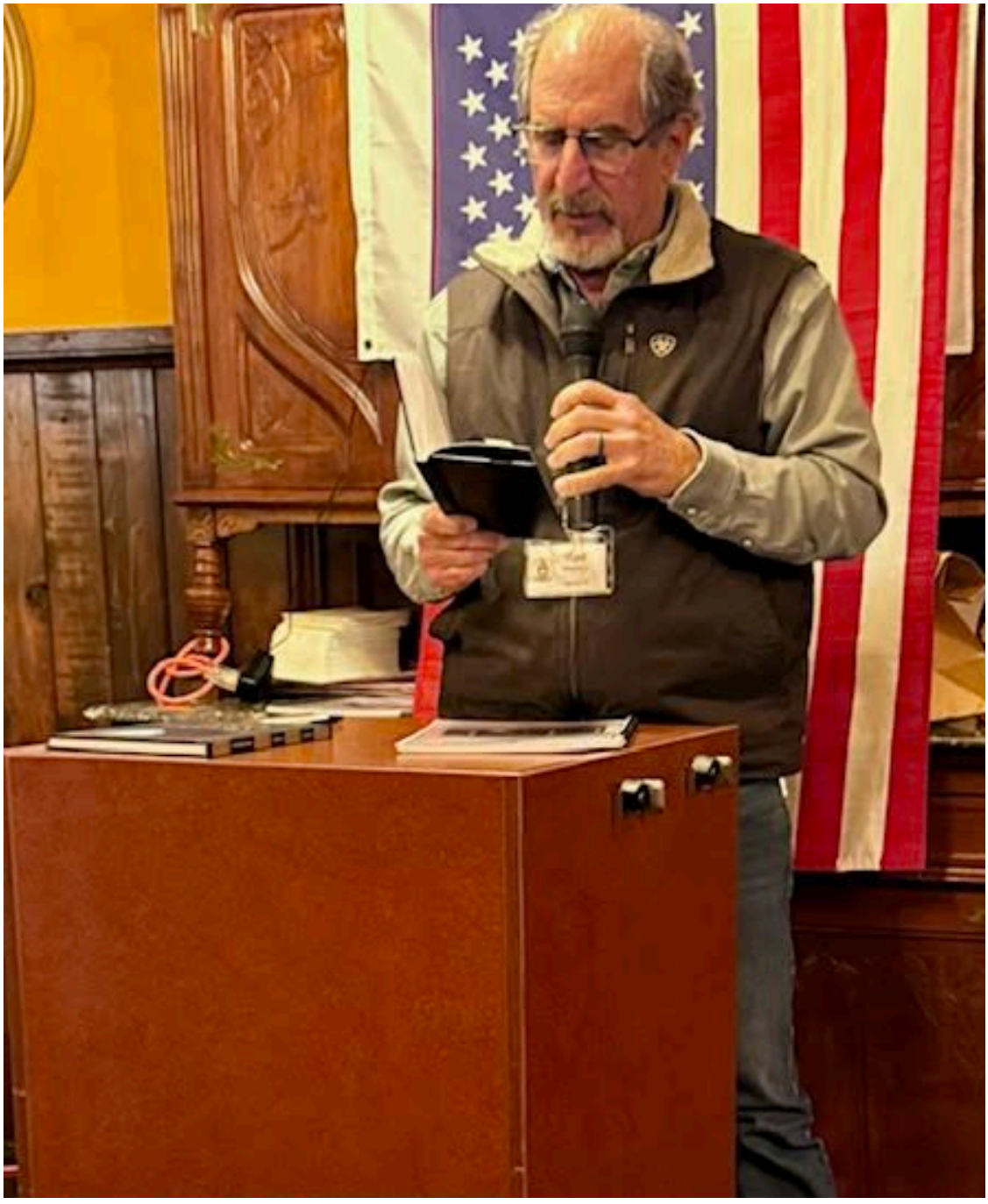
PAST ARTICLES YOU MAY HAVE MISSED

CELEBRATION OF BROTHERHOOD

At our February dinner event we celebrated Brotherhood Day. In 1981, Sigma Chi created a new and unique tradition-an annual Fraternity-wide celebration called Brother's Day. It is intended to be

a special celebration during which all Sigs gather to honor our Founders, our heritage, and our friendships with each other.

Rodney Gavroian (76-S) & Consul 1980 read from the Ritual Book on two sections. One being the Preface and the other being the final ceremony before Initiation begins. When a speaker is not invited, we will continue a selection of readings at future alumni events.



Rodney Gavroian (76-S) Alumni Dinner Event February 19, 2026

MARK SCOTT (69-F)
BLAST FROM THE PAST

While Mark was a pledge he attended the 1969 Sweetheart Ball. Pictured below are our House Mother, Mama Lou Underwood, and Consul **Greg Baxter** (67-S).



UPDATE – SIGMA CHI PHI ASSOCIATE CHAPTER

By Jack Houweling, Annotator, Sigma Chi Phi

Dear Brothers, we hope this message finds all of you well.

We wanted to take a moment to provide you with an update on our growth as a chapter, as well as our progress with our current pledge class.

We are proud to share that pledging is going very well. We have recently completed the pinning ceremony, welcoming three pledges into our brotherhood. We are starting Week 1 this upcoming week and hope to finish P4B before we go off to spring break.
Our installation process has been moving along smoothly. We've been hard at work completing the necessary tasks to become a fully structured chapter. This has included everything from voting and forming committees to implementing a dress code. All of this is geared towards developing systems and standards that we hope will guide our chapter well into the future.

Our goal during this time is to continue to build the foundation for what we hope will be a prosperous chapter for years to come. We are grateful for the support you all have shown and remain committed to the brotherhood we all share.

SIGMA CHI EXPANSION MEMORIES

By Order of Constantine Bill Robinson (70-F) Secretary, Fresno Sigma Chi Alumni Chapter

Remembering back, I took part in the initial induction initiation of the Sig Chapter at UC Irvine in the '70s and we took a small amount of our EH initiation regalia since the new chapter didn't have any yet. Other chapters, mostly in SoCal, did the same.

Also, while traveling a few years later I visited the Sig House at TCU and was asked to join in on the initiation interviews. Both were great experiences.

Do you have experiences to share? Send them to:
fresnosigs1952@gmail.com

PROTECTING THE HISTORY OF EPSILON ETA

By Order of Constantine & Significant Sig
Brad S. Fischer (78-S)

Sigma Chi continues to have the most extensive collection of materials at the Fresno State Library Special Collections Department. What are you doing to save material from Epsilon Eta? Here are some ideas while you hold the items until you are ready to save them in perpetuity at the library.

Items can include, photographs, invitations, programs, clothing, jewelry, award certificates, trophy's, scrapbooks, etc.

Keep materials in a dry and temperature-controlled environment

Avoid folding any materials

Write the names of people featured in photographs on the back using a #2 pencil

Write an explanation of people, events, places, etc. to accompany your items

Place like materials in a box, folder, envelope or Ziplock

SUPPORT THE ONLY GREEK ARCHIVE AT FRESNO STATE

Funds are needed 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

Mail your check to the Fresno State Foundation, Fresno State Advancement Services, 5244 N Jackson Ave., KC45, Fresno CA 93740-8023. Note University Library/Sigma Chi Collection

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 Scholarship & House Corporation Donations

You can now make scholarship donations using our website.

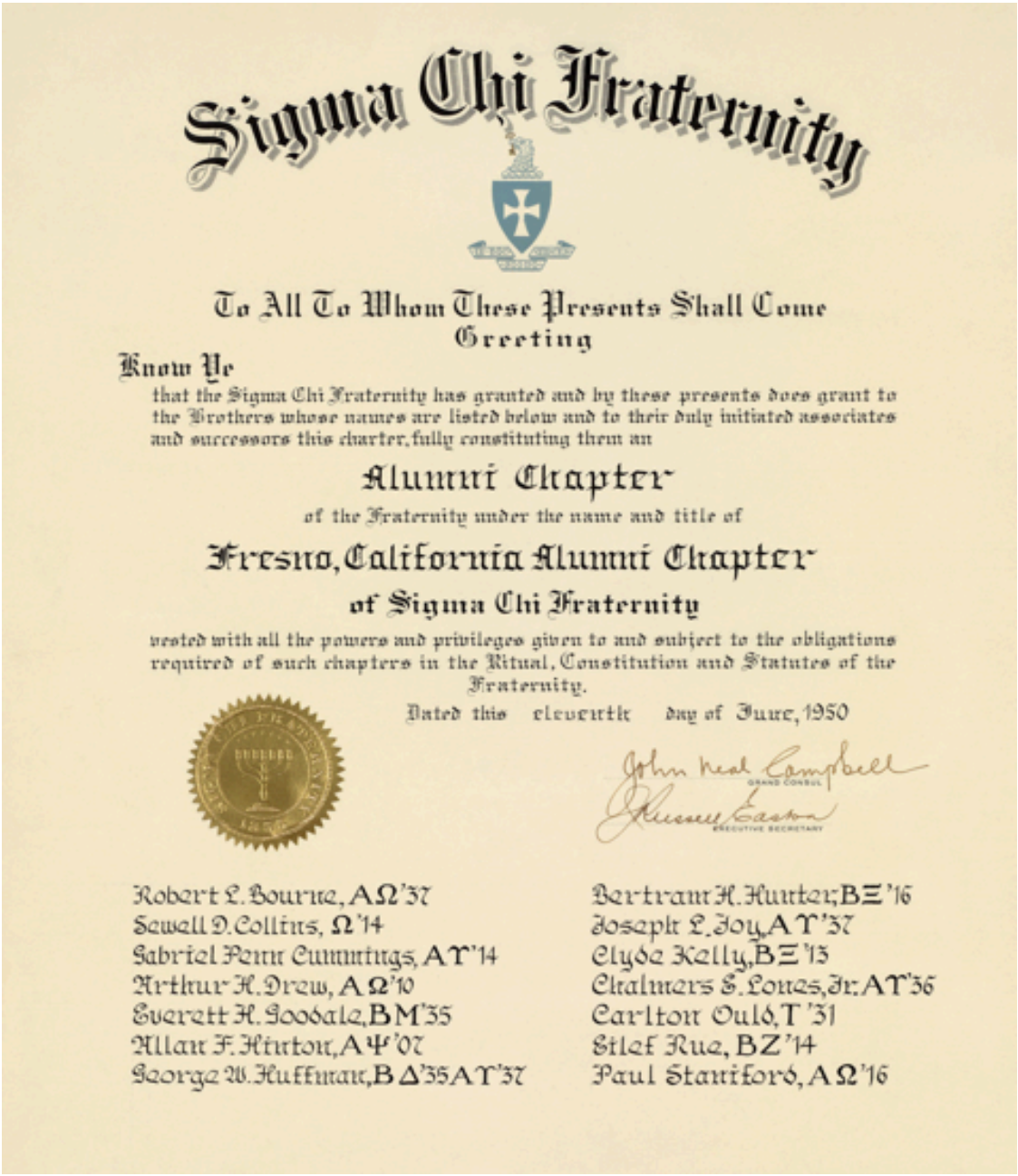
https://fresnosigsalumni.org/product/alumni-membership

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

Alumni Chapter Charter



Sigma Chi Fraternity

To All To Whom These Presents Shall Come
Greeting

Know Ye

that the Sigma Chi Fraternity has granted and by these presents does grant to the Brothers whose names are listed below and to their duly initiated associates and successors this charter, fully constituting them an

Alumni Chapter

of the Fraternity under the name and title of

Fresno, California Alumni Chapter

of Sigma Chi Fraternity

vested with all the powers and privileges given to and subject to the obligations required of such chapters in the Ritual, Constitution and Statutes of the Fraternity.

Dated this eleventh day of June, 1950

John Neal Campbell
GRAND CONSUL

Executive Secretary

Robert L. Bourne, AΩ'37
Sewell D. Collins, Ω'14
Gabriel Penn Cummings, AT'14
Arthur H. Drew, AΩ'10
Everett H. Goodale, BM'35
Allan F. Hinton, AΨ'07
George W. Huffman, BΔ'35 AT'37
Bertram H. Hunter, BΞ'16
Joseph L. Joy, AT'37
Clyde Kelly, BΞ'13
Chalmers S. Lowes, Jr. AT'36
Carlton Ould, T'31
Stlef Rue, BZ'14
Paul Stanford, AΩ'16







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

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