

January 2024



Sig-Nificant News

Monthly Newsletter - January 2024
Sigma Chi Alumni Chapter of Fresno

FEATURED

SIGS SURPRISE FANS

SEE ARTICLE BELOW

SIGMA CHI COLLECTION AT FRESNO STATE

SEE ARTICLE BELOW

EPSILON ETA INITIATION

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2024 - 8:00 AM

7th ANNUAL WINE TASTING

SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2024 - 3:00 to 6:00 pm

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,

Happy New year and may you and yours have a healthy and successful year!

We kicked off our 2024 chapter dinner meetings with a great turnout in January. The spirit of brotherhood was vibrant. We have lined up two great Fresno State speakers in the Spring. See our Calendar of Events below for details.

Join us on Saturday, February 4, 2024 for our Fall 2023 initiation at the Chapter House beginning at 8:00 AM. For those in the area who would like to conduct interviews you can send us an email and we will get you connected.

Plans are underway for another successful 7th Annual Wine Tasting on April 27, 2024 to benefit our local scholarship program. Be on the lookout soon for online bidding for our silent auction. This allows those of you who are unable to attend to participate and have robust bidding fun at the same time.

Guard well the White Cross of Sigma Chi and may you add new luster in 2024!

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>

More than 100 years ago, an anonymous Sigma Chi defined fraternity as “an obligation, a necessity, an introduction, a requirement, a passport, a lesson, an influence, an opportunity, an investment, a peacemaker and a pleasure.” www.sigmachi.org/history

SIGS SURPRISE FANS AT 1962 FOOTBALL GAME

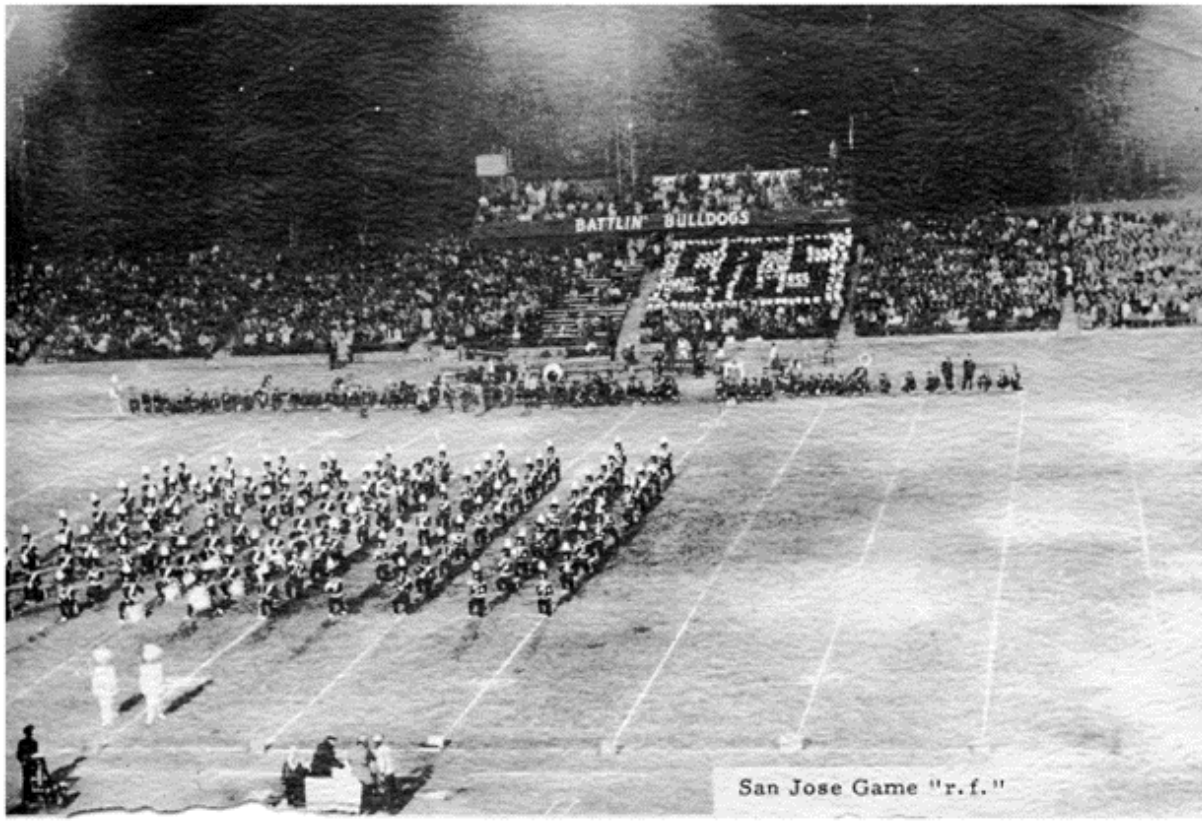
By Mike Patton, (63-S) Order of Constantine, Significant Sig & President of the Fresno Sigma Chi Endowment. mike@rmpatton.com

The “Original RF” was designed for the Fresno State vs San Jose State football game in 1962. It was known that many Fresno Sigma Chis were going to attend. The idea for the card trick prank (RF) was **Jim Green's** (58-S). Jim got brother **Glenn Davis** (59-F), an engineering major, to plot out on graph paper to scale the card trick section at the stadium. Head cheerleader **Gary Johnson** (59-F), cheerleader **John Wellfare** (60-F) and the other cheerleaders knew nothing about what was to take place.

The cheerleaders earlier in the day put the colored/numbered cards under each seat in the card trick section. At specific times during the game brother Johnson would call out a number which would prompt each person sitting in the card trick section to hold up a specific-colored card the combination of which would spell a word or words.

Before the game future Significant Sig **Jim Green**, future Consul **Ron LaRocca** (61-F), **Bob Rich** (61-

F) and future Consul **Tom Oliver** (61-F) snuck into the stadium and changed all the numbers on the cards. When brother Johnson called out a number, instead of what he thought would come up, "Sigs", "Hello Sigma Chi Alumni" and a few other Sig-related words came up. Photos were taken of the Sig card tricks and were pictured in future Sigma Chi rush booklets.



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 the following link:

[Click Here for More Information](#)

Select University Library and note Sigma Chi
Collection

Housing Corporation Update

Contributed by John Ballenger (65-S)

A happy 2024 to you all! All's quiet on
the western front. The active chapter is
still on break as I write this edition and
here are only 7 brothers staying in the
house while the other live-ins are either
at home or other parts unknown. We
still have 19 brothers living in this
spring semester.



A big **shout out** this month goes to brother Brian
Stout (63-S) of Mechanicsville Virginia. Brother Brian
has once again sent in a significant and much
appreciated donation to our housing corporation! In
Hoc Brian!

We are looking forward to a very successful spring semester. Wishing you all good health and happiness in 2024! It's great to be a Sig!

John Ballinger ('65-S)
Housing Corporation President

ALUMNI CHAPTER ROSTER

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

The Sigma Chi Alumni Chapter of Fresno 2024 Rosters are available for free download from this newsletter in PDF format. Please review the roster and report any errors or omissions to mike@rmpatton.com. Thanks, and in hoc.

[Click here to download Alumni Roster](#) (PDF)

SIGS IN THE NEWS

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

Premier Vallev Bank, a division of HTLF Bank, announced Brad S. Fischer, senior vice president, operations area manager, retired on Dec. 31 after more than 10 years with the bank.



He's served the community as a banker for over 45 years, joining PVB after a 35-year career with Bank of America. Fischer has over 50 years of community service in the Central Valley. He served as president of the Fresno State Alumni Association, Fresno County Historical Society, Fresno Merchant's

Association, Executives Association of Fresno, Bullard T.A.L.E.N.T. PTA and the Mortgage Lenders Association of Central CA. He was chairman of the Business Associates and the Alumni and Friends Chapter of the Craig School. He chaired the 2002 Valley Business Conference and served on the board of the Fresno Chamber of Commerce.

7th ANNUAL WINE TASTING SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2024

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

Again this year the wine tasting event will be held at Susan and John Ballinger's (65-S) beautiful backyard near Fort Washington Country Club.

The event will be held on Saturday, April 27, 2024, 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), Jim Norquist (69-F), Mike Patton (63-S) and Mark Springer (09-F).

Our website will be ready next month for taking online registration and raffle ticket purchases. Entrance fee is \$50/person. All event costs are paid for by our committee members, so as a fundraiser, the event is 100% efficient.

Your payment for the event may be tax deductible since our endowment is a 501c3, #26-2536438. All expenses for this event are paid for by the Wine Tasting Committee members making it a 100% efficient fundraising effort. All monies raised go

directly into our Fresno Sigma Chi Endowment which is managed by the Fresno State Alumni Association with earnings going to annual scholarships to our undergraduate brothers.



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 December 31, 2023.

1950's

Homer Potts 52-T; *Bob Buckenberger,*

Butch Charlebois, **Tony Flores**, **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, 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,
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,
Norm Bishop, Peter Britton, *Mike Chin*,
Gerald Chooljian, Steve Coleman, Mike Crowley,
Mark Ducas, Kenny Duncan, Russ Efir^{**},
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,
Serge Tomassian, Gary Trembley, Walt Trembley,
Bill Van Skike, Steve Vucovich[^], 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

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

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

Edward "Steve" Zucker (56-S) 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**

FUTURE EVENTS

Chapter Initiation

Join us on Saturday, February 4, 2024 for our Fall 2023 initiation at the Chapter House beginning at 8:00 AM. For those in the area who would like to conduct interviews you can send us an email and we will get you connected.

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

No-host cocktails followed by dinner.

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.

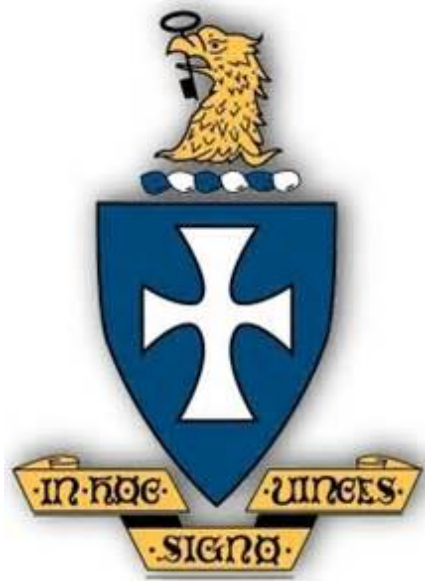
<https://fresnosigsalumni.org/product/alumni-membership>

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>





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

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