

February 2024



Sig-Nificant News

Monthly Newsletter - February 2024
Sigma Chi Alumni Chapter of Fresno

FEATURED

\$97,000 DONATION TO FRESNO STATE

*HONORS CHAPTER ETERNAL BROTHER JOSEPH E. PRESSUTTI
SEE ARTICLE BELOW*

MESSAGE FROM THE MIDDLE EAST

SEE ARTICLE BELOW FROM COL. PHILLIP "JOEL" ARMSTRONG (87-F)

7TH ANNUAL WINE TASTING

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

On Sunday February 4, 2024, our Fall 2023 fifteen new brothers joined the rolls of Epsilon Eta. Our Spring recruitment has begun and we will welcome new pledges at Preference Dinner on Monday February 26, 2024.

Our February Alumni Chapter dinner was an amazing success as we welcomed Rolston St. Hilaire, Dean of the Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology. Thirty-seven brothers enjoyed fellowship and hearing from the dean.

If you cannot make it to the 7th Annual Wine Tasting on April 27, 2024, and want to support the event, you can buy raffle tickets, donate an item, vacation home stay, gift certificates, cash, etc. Contact Tom Licouris (70-F) at tl5@comcast.net.

May the strong arms around you always be those brothers who proudly wear 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

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

"The history of our great Fraternity is a subject that most of us hold dearly, and we often find ourselves searching out for new information from many different

sources.”

Michael A. Codina MD, 22nd Grand Historian, California San Diego 1993

www.sigmachi.org/history

FAMILY OF FRESNO SIG DONATES \$97,000 TO FRESNO STATE

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

Fresno State business students seeking scholarships will have a bit more support coming their way with a \$97,000 donation from the Pressutti family. The Pressutti Scholarship was established in 2011 in memory of Joseph E. Pressutti [64-F], an Iowa native who moved to Hanford in 1962. The Craig School graduate had a varied career as a certified public accountant, venturing into a “nearly 40-year storm of acquisitions and mergers, start-ups and rescues,” according to his 2008 obituary.”

- from the Business Journal 2/2/2024



Joe's mother and father were both vice presidents for Armstrong Rubber in Pennsylvania that built a manufacturing plant in Hanford. Joe entered Fresno State as a chemistry major, but soon changed to accounting. After graduation he was hired by Price-Waterhouse, the largest accounting firm in the US. Joe worked in Southern California and had several celebrity clients including Jack Warner of Warner

Brothers Studios. He got involved in the roofing industry and held several patents. He created a company to manufacturer one invention, a ridge shingle, in Fresno. Joe was an amazing person who was pre-ordained to be an entrepreneur.

Housing Corporation Update

Contributed by John Ballenger (65-S)

Ahh.....the month of love! Hopefully you enjoyed Valentine's Day with your Sweetheart of Sigma Chi! What I love is we still have 19 active brithers living in the house, most of who are on scholarship!



This month's Sig shout-out goes to Brother Warren Williams S '61. Warren is sponsoring Pizza Night once a month for those living in the house this spring. The boys truly appreciate Warren's thoughtfulness.

We are preparing to fix another major roof leak in the kitchenette area. Other than that we are currently in good shape. We appreciate those of you who have donated funds to our housing corporation

It's great to be a Sig!

John Ballinger ('65-S)
Housing Corporation President

ACTIVE CHAPTER UPDATE

By Harrison Alessini, Chapter Editor

The semester is now in full swing and we recently held elections and conferred the ceremonies of

initiation on the Fall 23' class on February 4th! Initiation ran very smoothly, and was a very meaningful experience for all.

New top 5 positions include Nick Davis (F22) as Annotator and Cooper Lilles (F21) as Magister. The Epsilon Eta chapter is now gearing up for recruitment week which begins February 20th. Recruitment Chair Caden Shows and the chapter has been working diligently recruiting potential new members.

In other news, we recently had a great visit from Stuart Stringham (Southern Utah 2013-Associate Director of Chapter Support, Pacific Region) from Sigma Chi Headquarters. He held a recruiting workshop with us and gave us some tips on how to make chapter meetings more efficient. We look forward to utilizing these tips he gave us.

The Epsilon Eta Chapter also recently presented Valley Children's Hospital a check for 10 thousand dollars from 2023 Derby Days!

In Hoc Signo Vincas,
Harrison Alessini | Chapter Editor

MESSAGE FROM THE MIDDLE EAST

By Colonel Joel Armstrong (87-F)



Sending my very best to the brothers of Sigma Chi. I belong to the 40th Infantry Division as Chief of Staff. We return from our CENTCOM/ARCENT deployment to the Levant area on or about beginning of April 2024. We should be home just in time to file taxes.

Since October 7, our Area of Operations have seen significant threat activities. I was originally deployed to Jordan as Officer in Charge for the DIV. I am now living in Kuwait and working the usual 100-hour week. Days go by extremely quickly and I will reunite with Katie soon in Los Osos.

The 40ID has control and authority over 4,600 services members from across all three compositions of the army (AD, NG, & AR) spread across KSA, UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Jordan, and other locations. Unfortunately, an attack occurred in

Jordan which caused the death of 3x services members from the 411th Engineers (Army Reserve) located in Georgia. The remains were transported and received by families where our escorts provided some comfort to families during the worst moments in life.

Despite these events, we continue our current mission set and prepare for other on-coming attacks. At the same time, we prepare for re-deployment home and integration of our replacements next month. Our daughter lives in Fresno and during a future visit I will coordinate with a Sigma Chi event and attend.

INVITATION TO THE 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*

Dear Fresno Sigma Chi Brother,

You are cordially invited to join us for an exquisite afternoon of wine tasting and indulgence at the 7th Annual Sigma Chi Wine Tasting. Guests are welcome.



Date: April 27, 2024

Time: 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Location: John & Susan Ballinger's Home, 9846 N Yorktown Drive, Fresno, CA 93720

Dress Code: Casual

Entrance Fee: \$50/person (limited to 125 participants)

Online Auction:

<https://www.32auctions.com/sigalumniwinetasting2024>

Online Registration and Raffle Ticket Purchase:

<https://www.fresnosigsalumni.org/events/7th-annual-fresno-ex-wine-tasting-register-pay-entry-fees-and-purchase-raffle-tickets>

By Mail Registration: Send check payable to the Fresno Sigma Chi Scholarship Endowment, P.O. Box 7803, Fresno, CA 93747-7803. Please include name of guest.

Indulge your senses as you savor the finest selection of wines from renowned vineyards each hand-selected by Brother T.A. Heckel. Our sommeliers will guide you through a curated selection of reds, whites, and rosés, each paired with delightful hors d'oeuvres to complement the tasting experience. There will be an assortment of beer also for those who prefer this great beverage.

Whether you're a wine connoisseur or a novice, this event promises an unforgettable journey through the world of flavors and aromas, plus this is one of our premiere brotherhood opportunities.

Please RSVP by April 20 to ensure we have ample provisions for all our guests. We look forward to sharing this delightful afternoon with you.

Don't miss this opportunity to elevate your palate and celebrate the art of wine. We can't wait to raise a glass with you!

For inquiries, please contact Mike Patton,
mike@rmpatton.com, (559) 284-9914.

Cheers,

Mike Patton
Wine Committee Chairman

[Click here for downloadable flyer](#)



DEAN ST. HILAIRE VISITS WITH SIGMA CHI'S

Thirty-seven brothers had the opportunity to hear Rolston St. Hilaire, Dean of the Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology at our February dinner meeting. Dean St. Hilaire shared his vision for the college. Many of us heard many facts of the 1,000-acre Fresno State Farm. Did you know there was 720 acres of irrigated land and 17 separate wells on the farm?

Significant Sig, **Bill Smittcamp** (73-S) introduced Dean St. Hilaire. The dean shared that they were in the talent development business and we compared that to what we at Sigma Chi to develop men of high character and leaders.



L-R: Significant Sig (73-S) **Bill Smittcamp** & Dean Rolston St. Hilaire

CELEBRATE BRAD'S RETIREMENT!

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

mike@rmpatton.com

Fresno Sigma Chi Alumni President and Significant Sig, **Brad Fischer** 78-S, officially retired on December 30, 2023. During his banking career spanning 45 years, he worked at only two companies, the Bank of America and Premier Valley Bank.



On January 6, 2024 to commemorate Brad's retirement, we did what Sigma Chis do, we took a

road trip. Susan & **Larry Calvino** 69-S, Linda & **Brad Fischer**, Linda & **Rod Gavroian** 76-S, Michelle & **T.A. Heckel** 82-F and Ellen & Mike Patton 63-S rendezvoused at Pebble Beach to spend the weekend celebrating Brad's career. And celebrate we did.



Besides preparing great dinners which included Chilean sea bass and rack of lamb, we tasted great wines from all over the world. We also had lunch at the Hay, a new venue at Pebble Beach Lodge and then had “cocktails” on the patio of the Inn of Spanish Bay listening to the bagpipes. Rod and Linda had to leave early on Saturday to make another party in Fresno so they are not in the Spanish Bay photo.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

Fresno State's football team played Auburn

University at Auburn, Alabama in 1996. Ron and Tom drove from Atlanta where Ron was living to see the game. Past Consuls Ron LaRocca (61-F) and Tom Oliver (61-F) are pictured at the game with the Fresno State cheerleaders and Auburn fans in the background. Apparently the cheerleaders spotted the two handsome Sig alumni and asked to be photographed with the brothers. Fresno State got beat, oh well.



FYI, Auburn's In-state tuition cost this year is \$34,402 while Fresno State's is only \$8,414. Sometimes we forget how good we have it.

Sigma Chi Alumni Chapter of Fresno 2024 Rosters

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)

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 February 1, 2024.

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, **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 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 Kusaka, 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

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

Harvey Casey* (57-S) December 21, 2023

Bryce Carey* (57-S) February 4, 2023

Bob Kerley (61-S) July 2016

Rich Church (62-S) January 14, 2020

Donald Michael Davis* (65-F) August 7, 2023

Jeffrey Perenon (66-F) August 3, 2018

Don Berg (67-F) December 10, 2017

Jim Irick (68-F) April 5, 2016

Joe G Farias* (70-F) March 2, 2021

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**

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, 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 FROM 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

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

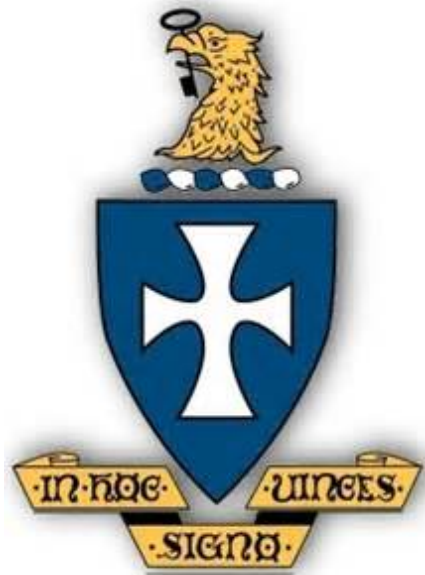
You can now make scholarship donations using our website.

<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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