

March 2024



Sig-Nificant News

Monthly Newsletter - March 2024
Sigma Chi Alumni Chapter of Fresno

FEATURED

AMBASSADOR SANCHEZ MEMORIAL FINAL PHASE

SEE ARTICLE BELOW

GENERAL FRATERNITY UPDATE

SEE ARTICLE BELOW

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,

The fundraising phase of the Ambassador Phillip V Sanchez Memorial Bridge has been completed. Thank you to those donors who contributed. See the article below.

Reservations are flowing in for the 7th Annual Wine Tasting on April 27th and tickets are limited. It is on track to be a sell out!

Our April 18th Alumni dinner guest speaker is Kent Willis, VP of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management at Fresno State. Dr. Willis is in his second year on campus and his presentation is especially important to us as under his division if the Greek system.

Continue to use the Jordan Standard as a guide in your business and personal interactions and the White Cross of Sigma Chi will gain new luster!

In Hoc Signo Vincas,

Brad

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

(559) 287-1392

fresnosigs1952@gmail.com

"Isaac M. Jordan — playmate of my boyhood, schoolmate, friend for long and strenuous years of manhood, and always the incarnation of high resolves, boundless energy, lofty ambitions, gifted with untiring perseverance and ability that made success a certainty; he has left an example of what a strong will and determined purpose can accomplish". - Founder Benjamin Piatt Runkle

www.sigmachi.org/history

MEMORIAL PROJECT TO HONOR PHILLIP V. SANCHEZ (52-T)

The final phase has begun for the manufacture and installation of the memorial bridge sign on Highway 41 at Alluvial Avenue to honor Order of Constantine, Significant Sig, first Epsilon Eta Consul, Ambassador **Phillip V Sanchez** (52-T).



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.

Thank you to the following donors: **Rodger Jensen** (52-T); Order of Constantine & Significant Sig **Tony Flores** (56-S); 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

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); **Mark Sanchez** (70-F), Significant Sig **Mike Gallo** (70-F) and Alumni Chapter Treasurer **Mark Scott** (69-F).

Housing Corporation Update

Contributed by John Ballenger (65-S)

With March comes our spring warm-up. We just had some major repairs to our flat roof drainage system. Fresno Sierra Construction Company has been answering our distress calls for the past 3 years and doing a fantastic job!



We have our usual spring room movement beginning with a few actives moving out, and younger initiates looking to take their places. Currently there are 18 brothers living in. We have 8 spring recruits who also may have interest in moving in.

That's all for now. Should you know anyone who might have interest in joining our award winning board, please have them contact me. We have an outstanding group, but we can always use a couple of more voices.

It's great to be a Sig!

John Ballinger ('65-S)
Housing Corporation President

ACTIVE CHAPTER UPDATE

By Harrison Alessini, Chapter Editor

March has been a busy month for Epsilon Eta with many philanthropies, derby days planning, and preparing our pledges for initiation. Please consider helping the active chapter in Derby Days as it not only helps Valley Children's Hospital and the community immensely, but also allows us to reaffirm to the Fresno State administration how much Sigma Chi helps our community.

Please join us for Spring '24 initiation which is tentatively scheduled for April 6, 2024 at 8:30a.m. Max Hairabedian, son of Lance Hairabedian (F-82) who recently passed away will be joining the rolls of Epsilon Eta as a member of the Spring '24 class so having many great alumni present will certainly make his experience much more meaningful!

Once again, the active chapter is unbelievably grateful for the continued support from our alumni and sincerely appreciates all of our alumni brothers who continue to contribute so much to our chapter! Lastly, IFC recently released the grade reports for the fall semester and Sigma Chi performed wonderfully placing first in new member GPT, third in overall GPA, and we also currently have the second most active members out of all 11 fraternities at Fresno State.

In Hoc Signo Vincas,
Harrison Alessini - Chapter Editor

7th ANNUAL WINE TASTING

RSVPs

SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2024

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

Dear Fresno Sigma Chi Brother,
The 7th Annual 2024 Fresno Sigma Chi Wine Tasting event will be held on Saturday April 27th at the home of Susan and **John Ballinger's** (65-S).



The event will be held from **3:00 PM to 6:00 PM**.
RSVP by April 20, 2024.

RSVPs of Brothers as of March 12, 2024 (Guests Not Listed)

Joel Armstrong (87-F), Bill Arnold (72-S);
Alex Audelo (63-S), Steve Bachand (79-F),
John Ballinger (65-S), Rich Barsanti (67-F),
Ravi Batth (97-F), Patrick Beggs (72-F),
Tom Beggs (68-F), Rob Bell (95-F),
Jerry Bender (69-S), Larry Calvino (69-S),
Brandon Cohrs (98-F), Steve Coleman (79-F),
Christian Cruz (20-F), Tom Downing (62-F),
Russ Efird (70-F), Mike Elliott (68-F),
Elwood Enns (60-F), Brad Fischer (78-S),
Tony Flores (56-S), John Garcia (67-F),
Matt Garcia (00-S), Rod Gavroian (76-S),
Pat Geil (97-F), Tito Gomez (22-F),
Blake Gunderson (75-S), Rob Hauser (76-S),
T.A. Heckel (82-F), Marv Helon (71-F),

Jon Hollenbeck (79-F), Darryl Horowitz (76-F), Sergio Illic (87-F), Tom Kusaka (79-F), Nathan Labiak (94-F), Tom Licouris (70-F), Cooper Liles (21-F), Michael Lynch (70-S), Logan Mann (20-F), John Marinovich (68-S), Mark McCullough (96-S), Jim Norquist (69-F), Brian O'Rourke (01-F), Mike Patton (63-S), Paul Porter (74-F), Gio Primavera (17-F), Gary Renner (63-S), Dave Reuland (69-F), Bill Robinson (70-F), Mark Sanchez (70-F), Dennis Schmal (69-F), Mark Scott (69-F), Bill Smittcamp (73-S), Mark Springer (09-F), Biran Stenklyft (00-S), Serge Tomassian (74-F), Austin Tuell (21-F), Chris Visser (70-F), Kirk Wethey (74-F), Warren Williams (63-S), Don Witzansky (67-S), Trey Wood (20-F) and Kevin Wren (74-F),

Admission fee is \$50/person. One-hundred percent of revenues will go to scholarships. Your payment for the event may be tax deductible since our endowment is a 501c3. All expenses for this event are paid

7th Annual Wine Tasting Silent Auction items – see online website for details:

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

AUCTION ITEMS

49er Home Game Tickets (6)

Fort Washington Country Club foursome

7-piece decanter set & Bonstone Bourbon

Victorian Bench

Beat the Heat in Pebble Beach

Lunch & Wine for (6) a Sam's Italian Deli

Fresno Grizzle Ticket Package

Sun Mountain Sports Clays

Gift certificate \$100 Sabor Cocina Latina & Bar

Vacation week with ocean view in Cambria

In Hoc Napa Valley Wine

Lunch for (6) with Fresno State President Dr. Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval

7-piece decanter set & Glenlivet Scotch

\$100 Meat Market Gift Certificate and BBQ Tools

Los Angeles Dodgers ticket package for two

Alfresco Dinner & Premium Wine

Fire Engine Ride down Christmas Tree Lane

\$50 Fleming's Gift Certificate

\$100 Old Spaghetti Factory Gift Certificate

Other items added periodically!



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.

[Click here for downloadable flyer](#)

Cannot attend? You can still support the event. You can bid on the silent auction, you can buy raffle tickets, donate an item, vacation home stay, theme dinner, gift certificates, cash, etc. Contact **Tom Licouris** (70-F) at tl5@comcast.net.

SMALL WORLD

From Ron LaRocca (61-F)

Ron LaRocca (61-F) now resides in San Diego. He is friends with a neighbor and shared their son is an Epsilon Eta Sigma Chi. Ron exchanged emails with **Robert Paley** (91-S). Here is an excerpt from that

exchange

“Hi Ron, thanks for reaching out. My parents had mentioned you before. That’s awesome that we both went to Fresno and we are Sigs. My son who graduated from Penn State is a Sig, as well as my brother’s son who goes to Oregon. I actually live in Pennsylvania now. Good news is I will be with my dad, brother and kids out in Las Vegas in a couple weeks for March Madness.”

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 March 18, 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*, Lindsay Brehm, Marv Broderson, Jim Calandra, Larry Calvino*^@, *Joe Chappell*, Steve Crawford, Rob Crossland, Larry Dorsey, **Tom Downing**^***, Michael Elliott, John Garcia, Dexter Hardcastle, **Colin Kelly*****, Bob Koligian*, *Ron LaRocca*, Jeff Linder, *John Marinovich*** , **Bill Matesso**, Dan Mueller, 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**, Jon Hollenbeck, 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, Chris Visser^{***}, 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

GENERAL FRATERNITY UPDATES

MARCH 13, 2024

**From Andrew Crossan (92-S)
Western Illinois & Alumnus Member-at-Large
to the Executive Committee Sigma Chi Fraternity**

Chapter Counts

Alumni Groups: 112 Alumni Chapters, 3 Alumni Associations & 8 Alumni Clubs

Undergraduate Groups: 232 Chapters & 10 Associate Chapters

Total Living Membership: 276,266

Total Initiated Members: 370,428

Expansion Efforts:

Recent Installations

Mu Nu Chapter, University of Alabama – Birmingham (2/17)

Upcoming Installations

University of Southern Mississippi (3/16 – 17)

University of Pittsburg (4/12 – 13)

Rutgers University (4/19 – 20)

Date TBD

University of Missouri – Columbia

Michigan State University

Westminster College

Mount Royal University

Belmont University

Iowa State University

University of Wisconsin – Madison

Watch our recent webinar about the Ritual Peer program on the Sigma Chi Learning Consortium <https://alumlc.org/sigmachi/34722>

Upcoming Events

8/1 – 8/4 KTLW 2024, Bowling Green State University

Assignment - Founders Day Alumni Chapter Activity

In alignment with Sigma Chi Founders Day -(June 28th), we'd like each alumni group to host an event. Specifically, this event should invite any local undergraduate Sigma Chis who are home for the summer. Please let us know how your event planning is coming along and what we can do to assist.

ALL HONOR TO HIS NAME

07/01/2023- 06/30/2024

(Click the Name with links 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

[Doug Munday](#) (65-F) Service April 22, 2024 - Gig Harbor, WA - 10:30 a.m.

[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

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

No-host cocktails followed by dinner.

Thursday, April 18, 2024
6:00 PM PT – Alumni Chapter Dinner Meeting
Guest Speaker: Kent Willis, VP Student Affairs

7th Annual Wine Tasting
Saturday, April 27, 2024
3:00 to 6:00 PM PT

Home of Susan and John Ballinger

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

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

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-reach-out/id1472427192>

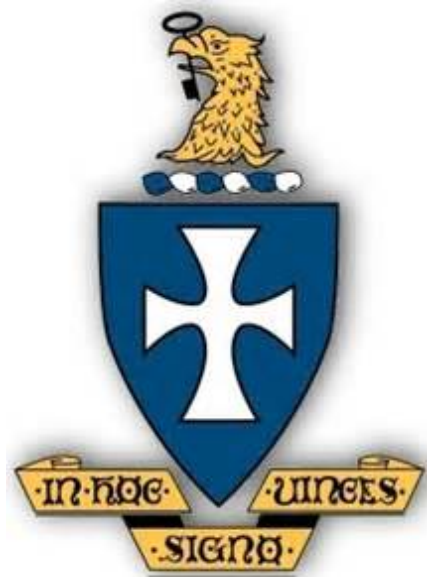
Sigma Chi Scholarship & House Corporation Donations

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.



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

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