

January 2025



Sigma Chi

FRESNO ALUMNI CHAPTER

SIG-NIFICANT NEWS

FEATURED

STEVE COLEMAN (78-F)

FIRST RESPONDER RECOGNITION

[SEE ARTICLES BELOW](#)

VISIT BY 68TH GRAND COUNCIL

TO ALUMNI DINNER JANUARY 16, 2025

[SEE ARTICLE BELOW](#)

MEMORIAL SIGNS INSTALLED

HONORING PHILLIP V SANCHEZ (52-T)

[SEE ARTICLE BELOW](#)

BLAST FROM THE PAST

RON LAROCCA (61-F) & BOB RICH (61-F)

[SEE ARTICLE BELOW](#)

\$232,000 RAISED

FOR VALLEY CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

[SEE ARTICLE BELOW](#)

8TH ANNUAL WINE TASTING & SOCIAL EXPERIENCE

SATURDAY APRIL 26, 2025

[VISIT LINK FOR TICKETS HERE](#)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<https://www.fresnosignsalumni.org/events>

ALUMNI DUES/DONATIONS

July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025

www.fresnosignsalumni.org/product/alumni-membership

President's Message

Contributed by Brad Fischer (78-S)



Worthy Brothers,

Welcome to 2025! Please take the time to read all our January articles. There are stories of recognition, remembrances and activities of our active chapter and alumni.

Your alumni chapter will recognize our first responder alumni during Spring 2025. Some will be able to join us at our monthly meetings. Our first recipient was **Steve Coleman** (78-F) and you will find his article below. **Sam Slosman** (10-S) is planning to join us at our February dinner.

Plan to attend our **February 20th** meeting and hear

from **Garett Klassy, Director of Athletics are Fresno State.** We will hear about his plans to prepare us for the PAC 12. Also comments on newly appointed Fresno State Football Coach Matt Entz.

Finally, many of our alumni activities are a result of those dues and donations we receive from you. Thank you to those listed below who contribute to helping us with hosting five active brothers at monthly dinner meetings, mailing costs for Semi-Century Sig and First Responder honors, production of our monthly communications and much more.

In the name of **Friendship, Justice, and Learning**, may 2025 be a monumental year for you and your alumni chapter.

In Hoc Signo Vinces,

Brad

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

(559) 287-1392

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

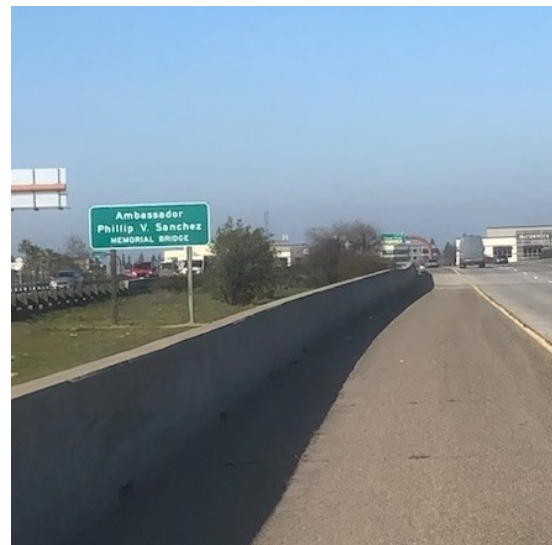
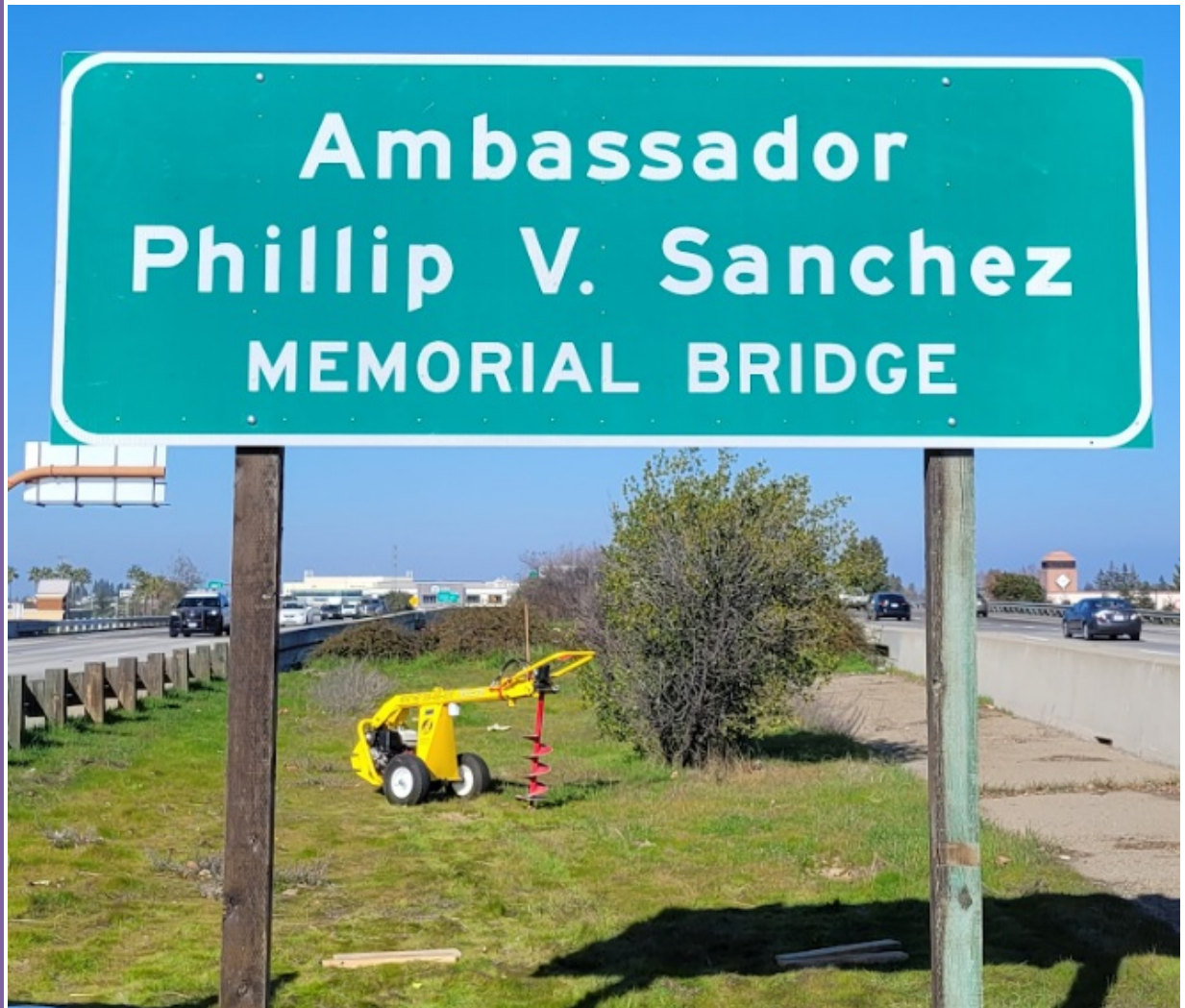
“Character without action has little meaning in this world. But leadership—acting in accordance with your character—can change the world.”

**Bill George, Georgia Tech 1964
Order of Constantine and Significant Sig
Former Chairman and CEO, Medtronic Corporation**

www.sigmachi.org/history

INSTALLED!

**CA STATE HIGHWAY 41
MEMORIAL BRIDGE SIGNS
HONORING AMBASSADOR PHILLIP V SANCHEZ**



The memorial bridge signs were installed on Friday January 17, 2025, on Highway 41 at Alluvial Avenue bridge to honor Order of Constantine, Significant

Sig, first Epsilon Eta Consul, Ambassador **Phillip V Sanchez** (52-T).

After more than five years of diligence, it is with celebration to finally see these signs just blocks away from Brother Sanchez's birthplace in Pinedale CA. This journey began by engaging Significant Sig **Elvin C Bell** (57-S) and together with Significant Sig **Brad Fischer** (78-S) spearheaded this effort.

Brother Bell entered the Chapter Eternal on March 7, 2022.

Donations of over \$10,000 were received from Headquarters award recipients and others to make this memorial possible. 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)

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).

SIGS IN THE NEWS

Valley Children's Hospital Foundation January Philanthropy Fulfilled communication

In December, members of the **Fresno State Sigma Chi Fraternity**, Epsilon Eta chapter, gathered for a check presentation at Valley Children's Hospital to celebrate their fundraising for their local Children's Miracle Network Hospital during **2024 Derby Days**. This year's even raised an incredible **\$12,000** for Valley Children's Hospital.

Over the last 20 years, Sigma Chi has raised more than \$232,000 for Valley Children's. Their continued support and dedication help Valley Children's provide the best care and support to kids in the Central Valley.



68TH GRAND CONSUL JOINS US AT OUR JANUARY DINNER

Sigma Chi Foundation President and 68th Grand Consul Mike Greenberg spoke on January 16. He discussed revisions to the Bell Chapter program for active chapters leadership learning and scholarships. He complimented us on our local scholarship efforts as trailblazing.

Future visits are planned and more details of improved Foundation programs to follow in the months ahead.



68th Grand Consul Mike Greenberg, Illinois-Wesleyan 1982
President, Sigma Chi Foundation

FIRST RESPONDER RECOGNITION



At our meeting this month the alumni chapter was honored to present for the first time the Sigma Chi First Responder lapel pins and Grand Consul letter. Our first honoree is **Steve Coleman** (78-F). Steve is a retired Fresno Police Law Enforcement Officer. In retirement he continues to lead the security team at the Well Church. Steve is a member of our Housing Corporation Board and longtime dues paying member of the alumni chapter. Congratulation Steve and thank you for your service.

Sigma Chi First Responder Recognition Pin

The International Fraternity recognizes those members who are federal, state, and local governmental and nongovernmental emergency public safety workers with the Sigma Chi First Responder Pin. The selfless service of these

brothers for the greater good of society brings honor to the name of Sigma Chi. Recipients will receive a lapel pin and a thank-you letter from the Grand Consul.

Sigma Chi Pandemic Responder Recognition Pin

The Sigma Chi Pandemic Responder Recognition Pin honors those brothers who have contributed in a meaningful way in the worldwide effort to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.

At our Spring 2025 meetings we will recognize others. We plan to honor **Sam Slosman** (10-S) at our February meeting. Other Epsilon Eta alumni identified are: **Travis Bader** (01-F), **Nick Fistolera** (12-S), **Kevin Lubina** (07-S).

Please email [***fresnosigs1952@gmail.com***](mailto:fresnosigs1952@gmail.com) if you are eligible for this recognition. Include your current position or if retired. For those who are not local we will mail your letter and pins.

***CELEBRATING
DEBBIE ADISHIAN-ASTONE***



The Alumni Chapter President's Citation was presented to Debbie Adishian-Astone at our January meeting. Debbie retired from Fresno State on December 31, 2024 as Vice President for Administration and Chief Financial Officer. She spent over 41 years at Fresno State starting as a

student assistant. She was an advocate for the Greek system and an opponent of the multi-family housing on the lot next to the chapter house. Debbie was also a Little Sigma!

HOUSING CORPORATION UPDATE

By John Ballinger, Housing Corporation President (S'65)

The active chapter has returned after winter break and our brothers have begun the fall semester. Upon their return they cleaned and prepared the house for our recent visitation from Sigma Chi 68th Grand Consul Mike Greenberg.

We begin the spring semester with 24 live-ins. I consider this number to represent a “comfortably filled” house. However we have one urgent need. We are unable to repair our house fire alarm system and must replace it very soon. If you have a referral or anyone who might be able to assist us in this endeavor, please contact me.

John Ballinger (S'65)
559-779-8998
Housing Corporation President



A BLAST FROM THE PAST ***BY RON LAROCCA & BOB RICH***

***FRESNO SIG ALUMNUS
PUBLISHES FRESNO BEE OPED***

A portrait of Dr. Robert M. Anderson, a man with grey hair and glasses, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and patterned tie. He is smiling slightly. The background is a map of the world.

Brother Dr. **Michael Lynch** (70-S) responded with

outrage to Saint Agnes Medical Center's decision to restrict the doctors who serve patients at the hospital to a huge nationwide partnership called Vituity. This means Fresno patients will no longer be able to be cared for by their own doctors when admitted to the hospital. Michael wrote a compelling argument against this change in his OpEd on January 12.

Dr. Michael Lynch, MD is an internist in Fresno, CA and has over 43 years of experience in the medical field. He graduated from University of California, Davis School of Medicine in 1981. This is a complicated issue that may affect you.

Please read the details by clicking the link below to the Fresno Bee article:

[Click Here for Article](#)

FRESNO SIG ALUMNUS' FAMILY BUSINESS WINS AWARD

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



Two generations of D&D, from left: Christian DeFendis (16-S), father Mike DeFendis, uncle Matt DeFendis and cousin Dalton DeFendis (13-F Iota Chi)

Being nominated for the 11th consecutive year as the Best Property & Casualty Insurance Brokerage in the Best of Central Valley Business Awards is an incredible honor for everyone at DiBuduo & DeFendis Insurance Brokers (D&D). But being named the best is even better.

DeYoung Properties Celebrates 50th Anniversary

Sigma Chi alumni Ryan DeYoung (00-S UCSD) and Brandon DeYoung (04-S UCSD) are celebrating with the rest of their family after building 8,000 homes over the last 50 years. Ryan is currently president, and earned a BS-Business Administration-Accounting and an MS-Financial Management. For more details click the link below:

VOICE OF OUR ALUMNI

“The highlight to me at the National meeting was getting reunited with Phil Sanquez, who was our chapter advisor when I Joined EX. Phil was an inspiration to me as a young guy, particularly, when I got drafted into the army during the Viet Nam war.”

I have many other fond memories of Sigma Chi, such as I met my wife of 59 years of marriage at the EX Fraternity house on Maroa in Fresno, at a rush party in 1963. She was a 17-year-old Freshman. We have been together ever since that party got married when she was 19 and I was 22 years old. I could go on and on but like lots of Sigs, the Fraternity has always been close to me.”

Colin Kelly (62-F), Significant Sig

JOHN WAYNE MEMORIAL VISIT BY BROTHER MANN



During his vacation in 2024, **Sam Mann** (91-S), pictured above, visited the birthplace of Significant Sig **John Wayne**, Alpha Upsilon, Southern California 1929. The museum is in Winterset Iowa.

In 2022 the Southwest Florida alumni chapters submitted application for the Birthplace Museum to be a Sigma Chi Memorial Monument. The *Monuments and Memorials Commission* voted the *John Wayne Birthplace Home and Museum* to be a Memorial Monument on the Sigma Chi trail of history.

The Southwest Florida alumni chapters then launched an Alumni Chapter Project for Sigma Chi to own *in-perpetuity naming rights* at the Museum. The archives of photos and memorabilia are solely dedicated to the life and legend of John Wayne - *an authentic American Icon*.

A significant number of Golden State alumni have joined the Campaign. We were also inspired to launch this journey because of Duke's everlasting loyalty to Sigma Chi.

As John Wayne generously gave of his time and treasure to Sigma Chi, we ask you to please join us and donate to the Campaign. Together, we will make a difference *for time immemorial* for the Good of Sigma Chi.

[Click Here for Information](#)

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 January 26, 2025.

1950's

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

1960's

Mike Alaga, John Ballinger***, Dave Barnes,
Don Beauregard, Tom Beggs, Dale Blickenstaff,
Richard Bratz, Lindsay Brehm,
Marv Broderson***@, Jim Calandra,
Larry Calvino*@, *Joe Chappell*, Steve Crawford,
Rob Crossland, Larry Dorsey*, **Tom Downing**^***,
Pete Eliopulos, Michael Elliott, Elwood Enns,
Richard Fox, John Garcia, Dexter Hardcastle,
Colin Kelly***, Bob Koligian*, *Ron LaRocca*,
Jeff Linder, *John Marinovich***@, Dan Mueller,
Ed Musolff*, Ron Nelson, Jim Norquist, Dan O'Brien,
Steve Pallios, **Mike Patton*****@, Wes Qualls**,
Gary Renner, **Dave Reuland**, Don Ruiz,
Dennis Schmal, Mark Scott***, Jack Tacchino,
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*,
Steve Coleman, Mike Crowley, Mark Ducas,
Kenny Duncan, Bruce Ekmanian*, Ken Esraelian*,

Brad Fischer, **Jon Gallinetti*****, Bob Garavello, Rod Gavroian, Tony Guerriero*, Doug Haas, Wade Hedrick, *Marv Helon**, Jon Hollenbeck, Darryl Horowitt, *Jim Hutton**, Kenny Jelacich*, Dave Kandarian, *Rich Klopstein*, Tom Kusaka, Tom Licouris, Mitch Long, Mike Lorenzen, *Michael Lynch**, *George Matoian*, *Mark Pasculli*, Paul Porter, Bruce Quan, **Bill Robinson**, Don Ruiz, Mark Sanchez***, Jim Sandrini, Glenn Scott, **Bill Smittcamp*****, 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, Chris Cole, Barry Foley, Randy Garabedian, Mike Green, T.A. Heckel, Don Heckman, John Hughes, Frank Huttlinger (S.D. St.), Sergio Ilic, *Marc Jason*, Kenneth Lehman, Jeff Little, Brian Lockhart, Chris Morse, Mike Price, Matthew Rowan, Doug Sampson & *Steve Smith*.

1990's

Rob Bell, Brandon Cohrs, Kenneth Eynaud, David Folly, Donny Gill, *Nathan Labiak*, Preet Purewal & Jason Weiner.

2000's

Chad Calhoun, *Aaron Encinias*, Matt Helon, Frank Puccio & *Mike Sandrini*.

2010's

Zachary Gavroian, Dusty Lacefield & Scott Moore.

Welcome our one-year complimentary membership,
Fresno State Class of 2024 – Cooper Liles,
Max Mahoney, Logan Mann, Roman Wells
& Trey Wood.

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

**INVITATION TO THE 8TH
ANNUAL FRESNO SIGMA CHI
WINE TASTING**



You are cordially invited to join us for an exquisite afternoon of wine tasting and indulgence at the 8th Annual Sigma Chi Wine Tasting. Guests are welcome.

Date:
April 28, 2025

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)

For Online Registration and Raffle Ticket Purchase:

[Click Here for Information](#)

By Mail Registration:

Send check payable to:
Fresno Sigma Chi Endowment
P.O. Box 7803
Fresno, CA 93747-7803.

(Please include name of guest for name tags)

SAVE THE DATE

2025 Alumni Chapter Dinner Meetings

Old Spaghetti Factory, Fresno

No-host cocktails followed by dinner.

Thursday, February 20, 2025

6:00 PM PT – Alumni Chapter Dinner Meeting

Keynote Speaker: Garrett Klassy

Director of Athletics, Fresno State

Thursday, March 20, 2025

6:00 PM PT – Alumni Chapter Dinner Meeting

Keynote Speaker: TBA

8th Annual Wine Tasting Experience

Saturday, April 26, 2025

3:00 - 6:00 PM (PT)

Susan and John Ballinger's Home

For Tickets: [Click Here](#)

Visit our events calendar for other upcoming activities:

<https://www.fresnosigsalumni.org/events>

ALL HONOR TO HIS NAME

07/01/2024- 06/30/2025

***John Mortland (52-T)**

***Don Andreson (56-T)**

Edward "Ed" Boswell (58-F) July 20, 2024

James "Jim" Calandra (60-S) July 22, 2024

Gene Goltz (63-F) February 9, 2021

Rick Nelson (65-S) September 10, 2024

John Crookham (90-S) September 9, 2024

J. David "Dave" Jensen, Jr. (67-S) July 20, 2024

Mark C. Thomas (94-F) October 29, 2024

***Edward Chidlaw (52-T) September 28, 2024**

***Wilbur Kusch (54-F) November 30, 2024**

***Raymond Stevenson (55-F) June 4, 2024**

(*) Notes those added this month.

Names underlined are links to obituaries on memorial sites



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

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

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

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

COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVE

Headquarters expectation of an alumni chapter is at least one community service project per year. This could include a blood drive, help at a food distribution center, neighborhood clean-up and numerous other activities. Do you have an event that our alumni can join to help as a team?

This community service is not just a Fresno project, it can occur where ever you live. Have an idea? Also, we need a Fresno area chair for an event.

Send an email to [*fresnosigs1952@gmail.com*](mailto:fresnosigs1952@gmail.com)

NEWSLETTER ARCHIVE

FACEBOOK – SIGMA CHI ALUMNI – FRESNO STATE

[*https://www.fresnosigsalumni.org/newsletter-archive*](https://www.fresnosigsalumni.org/newsletter-archive)

SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS

FACEBOOK – SIGMA CHI ALUMNI – FRESNO STATE

[*https://www.facebook.com/FresnoStateSigmaChi*](https://www.facebook.com/FresnoStateSigmaChi)

LINKEDIN – FRESNO STATE SIGMA CHI PROFESSIONAL NETWORK

[*https://linkedin.com/groups/13688055*](https://linkedin.com/groups/13688055)

SIGMA CHI REACH OUT App

Sigma Chi has created a mobile device App

for Active and Alumni members. Topics 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.

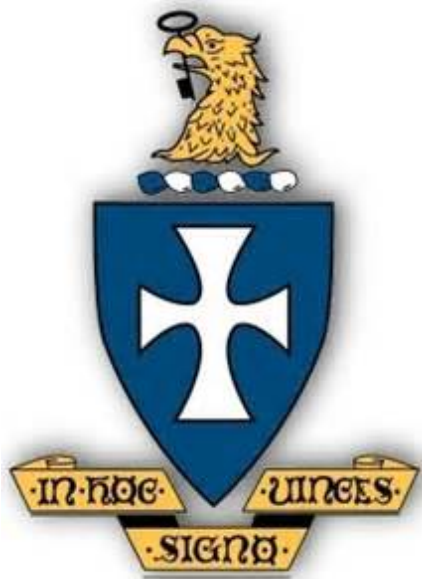
<https://fresnosigsalumni.org/product/alumni-membership>

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 US

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