



# THE HIGHLAND FEEL

Spring 2004

University of California, Riverside

Since 1977

## Phi Gamma Delta Prevails in Fall Rush

By Josh Bergere '04  
2003 Fall Rush Chairman

As we all know, recruitment of new members in Phi Gamma Delta is a very crucial aspect of our everyday actions. During our Fall 2003 Rush, we strived to find new members that we felt would further the aims and goals of the Rho Upsilon Chapter. It seems that we have succeeded in that mission, since we found a group of young gentlemen who would do just that.

The chapter took a very aggressive and active stance for Fall Rush, starting more than three weeks prior to the first day of school. With events such as Monday Night Football, Disco Bowling, Carnival Night at the FIJI house, and our outstanding presentation of brotherhood during Formal Rush Rotations, the chapter obtained 18 outstanding young gentlemen who we are now proud to call Brothers. These new Brothers have all proven themselves and are already starting to show that they have what it takes to be a die hard Phi Gam. Not only did our chapter greatly benefit from the addition of these new members, but I also learned, through my participation in the rush process, more than I could have ever imagined. "You get out of this Fraternity ten times more than what you put in" was a common saying during my pledgship, and no other phrase has ever been more precise or true to me. I honestly feel that the new members have already begun to understand this ideal. We, as a Chapter, stand to reap the many benefits from this understanding in the near future. Welcome new PHI GAMS!

## A Debt Free Phi Gam

By David Davies '04  
Chapter Treasurer

The years of financial catch-up will finally come to an end this year with the help of our chapter's strong financial diligence. Over the years, the Rho Upsilon chapter has been  
(continued as "DEBT FREE" on page 2)

## Board of Chapter Advisors Recruitment Begins

By Ryan Hoskin '03, Alex Johnson '02  
Purple Legionnaires

Recruitment for the newly established Board of Chapter Advisors (BCA) for the Rho Upsilon Chapter of Phi Gamma Delta has begun. We are searching for Phi Gam alumni that want to contribute to the fraternity that guided them throughout their college years.

The function of a BCA is tri-fold: First, the BCA acts as a set of advisors for selected committees within the undergraduate chapter. Second, the BCA will act as a liaison between the undergraduate chapter and the graduate brother population. Third, and most importantly, the BCA will establish and work towards fulfilling long-term goals for the undergraduate chapter. Positions available include: BCA Chairman, BCA Co-Chairman, Public Relations, Graduate Relations, Scholarship and Rush. Requirements for each position will vary, although the maximum time requirements will not exceed monthly meetings and regular phone calls.

This is a pivotal moment for Phi Gamma Delta, and now is the time for us to act. The chapter has been working hard and has made drastic improvements in areas such as risk management, finance, rush, and scholarship, and we must keep the momentum going. If assisting in the formation of the BCA is something that you would like to take part in, please contact Brother Hoskin at (909) 237-5678 or at [hoskir01@student.ucr.edu](mailto:hoskir01@student.ucr.edu).

## 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Norris Pig Dinner

By Donald Rosenbek '06  
Pig Dinner Chair

The Rho Upsilon chapter will be holding their 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Norris Pig Dinner on Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup> and we strongly encourage all Brothers to attend. Due to all the improvements this Chapter has seen in the past few years, we are going to have the best Pig Dinner yet! In addition, there  
(continued as "PIG DINNER" on page 3)

**DEBT FREE, ctd.**

trying to recover from years of accumulated debt. However, with the help of graduate support and our current financial commitment, this year will be a milestone for our chapter in Phi Gamma Delta as our nationals past debt will finally be paid off.

We continue to shine and take pride in the fact that our present financial status with nationals remains to be current at a zero balance as members are fulfilling their financial obligations with persistence. Successful fundraisers such as our 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Parent Appreciation Night and our upcoming Norris Pig Dinner on May 15<sup>th</sup> will further stabilize our chapter's finances as well.

We project that our continued progress toward financial brilliance will put Rho Upsilon among the elite chapters in our beloved fraternity Phi Gamma Delta where we belong. Right now it pays to be a Phi Gam!

**Fiji Gives Back to Community**

By Eric Field '04  
2003-2004 Philanthropy Chair

Community Service has always been a very important aspect of fraternity life and to Phi Gamma Delta. This year, we wanted to serve the local community the best we could.

We started the year off by sponsoring an on-campus blood drive in which we helped collect over 80 pints of blood. The brothers contributed by handing out fliers, serving food and beverages to blood donors, and donating blood. We also held a canned food-drive in which we collected over 300 individual cans of food and donated them to the Victory Temple of Deliverance Church, which were distributed to the needy families of Riverside. Throughout the year we have also donated aluminum cans to the sisters of Pi Beta Phi, which are recycled and the profits are donated to charity. One major accomplishment that we are very proud of is that over the last two quarters we have engaged in an ongoing philanthropy in which for two hours, twice a month; we prepared food (sandwiches, chips, and fruit) to be given to the homeless. Throughout this period we worked hand-in-hand with the Student Homeless Aid Relief Project organization to make this possible. To this day we still continue our commitments to the S.H.A.R.P. organization and to our local community.

**Graduate contributions to the Highland FIJI are always welcome. Please send submissions to:**

vaheshahnazarian@hotmail.com  
Vahe Shahnazarian  
Graduate Relations Chairman  
The Fraternity of Phi Gamma Delta  
University of California, Riverside  
Campus Activities Office

**Housing Updates**

By Robert Benavent '04  
Housing Chair

Last year as most of you know by now the Fiji house was placed on the housing market. A group of graduates took the initiative to purchase the property and many graduates donated thousands of dollars in order to secure this deal. In the end, we were unable to get enough money for the down payment. The undergraduate chapter deeply appreciates this gesture. It was however purchased by a man who is a greek man himself and is a partner in a LLC that owns many other fraternity houses in California. As nice as it would have been to own the Fiji house we are still able to have input on some of the property upgrades. The owner has already paved and extended the driveway, installed a sprinkler system, replaced all broken windows with new windows and frames, painted the interior and exterior of the house, taken down old dead trees, and cleared ground covering around the perimeter of the house, and most important of all made it secure. Some of his future plans include new roofing (of which tiles have already been purchased), air conditioning, large counter top barbecue (already purchased as well) and later down the road additional rooms. We are on a year contract with new owner who gives us confidence that all of his promises will be met.

This past December the chapter was contacted by another homeowner who wished to rent to us. He found out through the school that Phi Gamma Delta was a pretty reputable fraternity and gave us the first shot at living in his residence. The house is located of Sycamore Canyon just south of Central. It has four stories, eight bedrooms, two kitchens, a dance floor, a wet bar, a sauna, and balconies that go around the circumference of the house on each floor. We currently have seven people living here with the eighth moving in during summer. This new house has solidified our top house position and will be key in rush next fall.

**Donations Needed**

By Mukundh Pandian '05  
Chapter Historian

After 27 years of consistent use, wear and tear is finally taking its toll on our ritual equipment. We are in desperate need for donations, whether large or small, in order to ensure that the traditions of Phi Gamma Delta live on. If you would like to donate and would like a list of items that need to be replaced, please contact Brother Pandian at (949) 322-8239 or at [fiji@noxsurfing.com](mailto:fiji@noxsurfing.com).

Asides from ritual paraphernalia, Rho Upsilon is also looking for a new canopy for rush, couches, a dining table, a new flag, and just about anything else that you could help with. Again we appreciate any support and look forward to hearing from you.

**PIG DINNER, ctd.**

22 Brothers who are eligible for Silver Owl Awards, which recognizes their 25th anniversary of initiation. These brothers include:

Neil A. Carter '79  
 Brian H Grimard '79  
 Patric G. Dacy '80  
 John B. Fitzgerald '80  
 John L. Fritz '80  
 Shahen Hairapetian '80  
 Milton H. Tenno '80  
 Ross K. Arakaki '81  
 Gregory P. Fontana '81  
 Edwin Robert Freeman '81  
 Kevin M. Kordys '81

Md Philip J. Tusio '81  
 Mitchell T. Cochran '82  
 Donald M. Cole '82  
 Ronald P. Fineman '82  
 Van Buren R. Lemons '82  
 Paul Vega '82  
 Daniel E. Casey '81  
 Richard A. Katnik '81  
 Curtis S. Winiecki '81  
 Jeffrey P. Davis '82  
 Greg S. King '82.

Both Riverside Graduates and Graduate Brothers from different parts of the country will be attending. This year's Keynote speaker will be Archon Bill Kramer (Gettysburg 1978), and the Exile's Toast will be performed by David "DB" Wilkerson (1980). It will be a very memorable event and we hope that everyone can attend.

The schedule goes as follows:

**Saturday Morning - Afternoon: Golf Tournament**

**6:00 p.m.: Reception**

**7:00 p.m.: Dinner**

**9:00 p.m.: Pig Roast at House**

If you are interested in playing in the golf tournament contact Brother Eric Carter at (415) 706-6725 or [EricMCarter@hotmail.com](mailto:EricMCarter@hotmail.com)

There will be more detailed information sent to you as soon it develops, but start calling your pledge brothers now and make it a point that they attend. For more information you may contact brother Rosenbek at (661) 435-1000 or at [derosenbek@hotmail.com](mailto:derosenbek@hotmail.com). Updates for Pig Dinner will also be available by logging onto the chapter website, [www.riversidefiji.com](http://www.riversidefiji.com).

## First Annual Parent Night a Success

By Joey Pelej '06  
 Chapter President

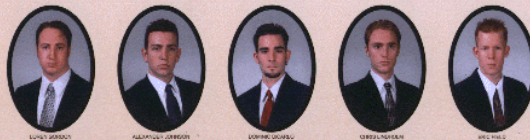
This year marked the success of the renewed tradition of Parent Night. The event was held at the beautiful Vintage Restaurant in Big Bear, California on February 20, 2004. The night consisted of an elegant three course meal followed by a scholarship awards ceremony and silent auction. Due to such enormous support by parents, proceeds from the event are being used towards new Fiji sports jerseys, improvements to our house, and most importantly, a large addition to our scholarship fund. Parent Night served as an outstanding fundraiser but more importantly, brought our families together. The evening gave parents a chance to experience the strength of our brotherhood and to learn more about Rho Upsilon's dedication to our academics and service to the community. The brothers of Rho Upsilon would like to say thanks to Randy Arrington and the Vintage Restaurant for hosting our event and to our parents for their support and inspiration. Parent Night is a tradition we hold close to our hearts, thanks for making it such a success.

### The UC Riverside Fijis Need News About You

We are interested in what you are doing and where you are. We want to tell your brothers all of the good news you have. This can also be used to update us as to your current address so we can stay in touch. Your brothers all over the world are waiting to hear from you. Please send all information to Vahe Shahnazarian at: [vaheshahnazarian@hotmail.com](mailto:vaheshahnazarian@hotmail.com).



The Fraternity of Phi Gamma Delta  
University of California, Riverside  
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Riverside, California 92521-0406



## Phi Gamma Delta Rho Upsilon

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The Highland FIJI is published twice annually by the Rho Upsilon Chapter of Phi Gamma Delta for its members, both undergraduate and graduate, family and friends.

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