

THE FRATERNITY OF PHI GAMMA DELTA: GAMMA KAPPA CHAPTER

The 39th Annual Pig Dinner

CASINO NIGHT

Every year, the brothers gather with the Graduates of FIJI to celebrate the chapter in an annual tradition known as Pig Dinner. Often the biggest event for FIJI worldwide each year, the chapter house is usually filled to the brim with returning graduates and undergrads. Gamma Kappa started its festivities with the Casino Night. Joined by DU, the undergraduate brothers cooked, and dealt for the graduates as a sort of an appetizer for the real deal the next day. Wine and cheese was served as Graduates and sweethearts caught up with each other.



Connor Kopel dealing heat.



KICKBALL

The next day, brothers flocked over to the FIJI House to re-connect and hang out with Graduates. The annual Grad vs Undergrad kickball was had, but this year we twisted the rules to be odd grad year versus even year.

With Dan Stillman and Pat Athee as the pitchers, an intense game of kickball was had for a few hours. Brother turned on brother as bases were stolen, backs gave out, and brothers exclaimed how they weren't as young as they once were. The game ended in a humiliating loss for the Odd team, and everyone gathered around for one last picture on the wall of IMF



HOUSE PARTY



After kickball, the brothers came back to the house once more to relax and catch up. Chipotle was served as everyone took a seat and ate their fill. FIJI was packed, and smiles all around.

Grads and undergrads alike talked about their stories at Mines and shared wisdom and tales through the halls. In the main room, food coma began to sink in as the couches claimed many more awake souls to a slumber. The entire house spent the rest of the afternoon relaxing and enjoying the company of the brothers, which was a well needed break from the homework and jobs.

Pig Dinner

At last, 6:00 rolled around, and brothers began to trickle into the Green Center at Mines for the official dinner. Welcoming each brother in, we handed out nametags adorned with their sweethearts' names, eliciting smiles of recognition and amusement as old friends and brothers reunited. The hall buzzed with the energy of reunion as brothers caught up, and trays of snacks and appetizers were passed around in beautifully arranged displays. Hundreds flooded the hall, taking their seats at the numerous tables scattered throughout.

Alexander Tieman, the organizer head of Pig Dinner, took the stage, extending his gratitude to everyone for attending. After introductions and opening statements, the Exile's Toast was raised, signaling the start of the ceremony. With great fanfare, the pig was brought out by the firstcomers of Pig Dinner, the Kappa Class, amidst cheers and applause. However, tradition took an unexpected turn when it came time for the pig kissing ritual. The crowd intervened, urging the Kappas to redirect their affections elsewhere. In a lighthearted moment, Evan Majeski, the youngest brother, was chosen to claim the tail of the pig, much to the delight of the brothers.

As dinner commenced, the scene was one of camaraderie and nostalgia. Grads and undergrads mingled, sharing stories of their time at Mines and the challenges they faced. Tales of sororities, sports, and studies filled the air, adding to the ambiance as everyone indulged in the delicious food.

Later in the evening, as awards were presented, the room erupted with applause and laughter. Amidst the shoutouts and Silver Owl honors, brothers celebrated the fraternity's successes and the achievements of its members. It was a joyous celebration of home, brotherhood, and the FIJI spirit.

As the dinner drew to a close, brothers dispersed to afterparties, enjoying craft drinks and music while exchanging contact information and forging connections between graduates and undergraduates. As a first-time attendee of Pig Dinner, I was delighted to meet fellow brothers and hear their Mines journey. It's always heartening to discover the shared experiences that unite us, reminding us that while Mines may be challenging, moments like these make it all worthwhile.

-Written by Ryan Freese



E-DAYS

E-Days at Mines stands as a timeless testament to the unwavering resilience of its students. Once a year, weary Mines scholars set aside their textbooks and problem sets to revel in the unique spirit that distinguishes them from their counterparts around the globe. The weekend unfolds in a flurry of festivities, creativity, and age-old traditions, providing a much-needed respite from the rigors of academic life. Within the cozy confines of the FIJI house, brothers unwind amidst the jovial atmosphere of Brotherlocke, sharing laughter and creating lasting memories. The pinnacle of the celebration is the iconic Ore Cart Pull, a symbolic journey that unites students in a shared sense of pride and camaraderie as they traverse the streets en route to the grand finale of fireworks. E-Days offers not only students but also alumni and families a precious opportunity to unwind before the impending finals, rekindling the carefree essence of college life and fostering connections that endure beyond graduation.

ORE CART PULL

The ore cart pull stands as a time-honored tradition, marking the commencement of the Colorado School of Mines holiday E-days since its creation in 1934. The procession begins with Mines students pulling the ore cart down the bustling streets of Colfax as a unified force, slowing traffic and happily cheering, has evolved into an indispensable element of the E-Days celebrations. Prior to our departure, Blaster, a revered figure and loved donkey, bestowed his blessings upon us, imparting a sense of unity and purpose as we embarked on our journey. The Phi Gamma Delta brothers swiftly maneuvered to the forefront of the march, proudly securing the flag, symbolizing our leadership in guiding the procession towards the capital building. Throughout the arduous trek, solidarity prevailed as we supported one another, ensuring that every participant reached the journey's end unscathed even over the course of the seven mile hike. Upon our arrival, amidst a throng of onlookers, the governor solemnly declared April 11th as the official commencement of E-Days, signifying the significance of our collective effort. As brothers united in purpose, we gallantly planted the Mines flag, a tangible testament to our shared triumph over adversity, proudly proclaiming our conquest of the march. Through gas station stops, insane selfies, bonfire burritos, and random people cheering us on along the way, the journey was accomplished with our very own Jackson Neil carrying the flag and more importantly the portable speaker to act as FIJI's own personal Bard, energizing us to finish the hike.



HIKE

At the crack of dawn on the second day, a spirited group of brothers embarked on a sunrise hike up South Table Mountain. The ascent was not merely a physical journey but an opportunity for camaraderie, as laughter and stories echoed through the crisp morning air. As the sun gradually illuminated the landscape, revealing the breathtaking beauty of Golden, we paused to appreciate the majesty of nature unfolding before us. The winding trails led us to vantage points offering panoramic views of the town nestled amidst the rolling hills, a sight that filled us with awe and gratitude. After descending from our mountain adventure, our appetites were hearty, and we eagerly made our way to the Golden Diner. There, amidst the cozy ambiance and the aroma of freshly brewed coffee, we indulged in a satisfying breakfast. The age-old adage that "hunger is the spice of life" resonated deeply as we savored each bite, relishing not only the food but also the bonds of brotherhood strengthened by shared experiences.

Brotherlocke

During the vibrant celebrations of E-Days at Mines, FIJI brothers eagerly anticipate the Brotherlocke tradition. It's a time-honored ritual where they gather to name Pokémon after each other and embark on Nuzlocke-style adventures in various games. This tradition not only adds an element of friendly competition to the festivities but also fosters camaraderie and strengthens the bonds between brothers as they share in the excitement of gaming together.



THE CARNIVAL

The morning after the hike continued with the festivities as a large group of the brothers made their way down to the intramural fields to see the daily festivities. Those who were not on the hike were able to watch the Cardboard Boat race, a testament to engineering as Brothers and Students like made teams to build vessels to withstand the roar of Golden's Clear Creek river. The rest of us enjoyed the free food, music by Lucas Holt and his band Suprisingly, and the inflatable enjoyments at the Intramural Fields of CSM.

We were greeted by Bungie racing, foam boxing, and other booths that offered food and general fun prizes.

The FIJI Brothers showed off their suprising strength as three of them set records on the pull up bar, with Jackson Neil, Christian Talbert, and Ryan Freese setting the daily record, one after another. The climbing team at Mines was impressed with our efforts, and the brothers continued on their day. Grabbing food afterwards was non-negotiable and the brothers made their presence known at the nearest ChickFILA.



The Rock House

Lucas Holt and his band Suprisingly also made a cameo at one of the Edays House parties the night before. Jamming out with classics like Uptown Funk, Pink Floyd and other groovy classics and originals, the gang made headlines in front of the Mines students and FIJI brothers with their tasteful soul despite being a band for only a month or two. Their victory in the battle of the bands secured them two gigs over the course of Edays., and allowed them to show off their skill



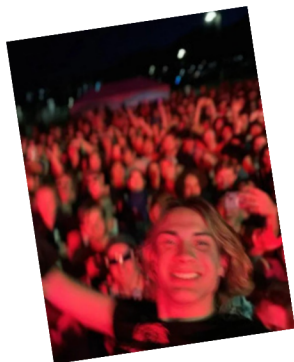
After the exhilarating E-Days Carnival and its festivities (as seen by historian Alex Zito, captured on the left), the brothers regrouped at the house, where they continued the Brotherlocke tradition, immersing themselves once more in the world of Pokémon before gearing up for the main event of the evening: the BBNO\$\$ concert.

As anticipation mounted, the brothers made their way to the concert venue, eager to see the Canadian rapper in action. The atmosphere crackled with excitement as two dynamic openers set the stage, igniting the crowd with their electrifying performances. But it was when BBNO\$\$ himself took to the stage that the energy reached a fever pitch. His larger-than-life presence and infectious energy had the crowd roaring with delight.

Amidst the pulsating beats and BBNO\$\$'s signature wit and charm, Jackson Neil seized the moment, diving into the crowd and surfing his way through the throngs of cheering fans for an entire song. It was a moment of pure adrenaline and camaraderie, as brothers and concert-goers alike joined in the exhilarating experience.

As the night sky glittered with stars overhead, the concert continued well into the early hours of the morning. Brothers danced, sang along, and reveled in every moment, fully immersing themselves in the electrifying atmosphere.

When the final encore faded away, signaling the end of the concert, the brothers turned their gaze skyward once more, as the Fireworks Festival began in a dazzling display of lights and colors. Against the backdrop of the night sky, the fireworks painted a spectacular tableau, marking the culmination of a day filled with excitement, camaraderie, and unforgettable memories.



Gamma Kappa Calluses

In recent months, there's been a new activity on the agenda for members of FIJI fraternity: climbing. It all began about two months back and since then, every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon, you'll find us at The Spot Golden, tackling the walls.

The appeal of climbing for us isn't just about the physical challenge—it's also about the mental focus it demands. There's something serene about plotting your next move, concentrating solely on the task at hand. It's become a welcome break from our usual routines, a chance to clear our heads and reset. Moreover, climbing is proving to be a great way for us to stay in shape. With each climb, we're strengthening not only our bodies but also our minds. It's a holistic approach to wellness that's really resonating with us. But perhaps the best part of climbing is the camaraderie it fosters. There's a real sense of teamwork as we encourage each other and share tips on how to tackle the routes. And when someone finally conquers a particularly tricky climb, the sense of accomplishment is shared throughout us. Of course, it's not all serious business.

We're also having a ton of fun. The Spot Golden has a relaxed atmosphere, and there's always good music playing in the background. It's the perfect setting for hanging out with friends and challenging ourselves in a new way. So, if you're ever in the area on a Tuesday or Thursday afternoon, feel free to drop by The Spot Golden and see what climbing with FIJI is all about. Who knows, you might just find yourself hooked on the sport like we are!



Odyssey of the Minds: Brody Mittelstadt

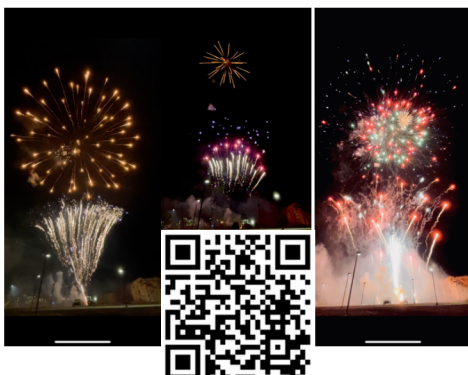
Odyssey of the Minds is an event where young children worked as a team in order to complete challenges. We were the judges for these events, which ranged from designing a frame out of paper to classic science fair projects. Personally, I worked as the recap manager for the "spontaneous challenge" where young children worked on a surprise problem. My job was to let the youngsters know that they should not discuss what happened in the spirit of fairness, as this competition was happening across the nation. Many undergraduate brothers were in attendance, helping this project run smoothly. It was a great event and fun for both our brothers and the children we helped.

Me



FIREWORKS

When the concert had finished, the end of E-Days had finally begun. Our very own Mines explosives club was responsible for the show, as as the thousands of Mines students began to migrate from the concert, the sky lit up. As tradition, a flamethrower wielding senior set a giant M on fire to start off the night. The members of FIJI and the rest of the school spent the last few hours of edays witnessing the untapped fury of explosive engineers as the sky went red. As our retinas burned out and our ears went deaf it allowed us a moment of resolve, to forget about the exams, the homework, the projects, and just focus on being together as brothers, proud brothers of Phi Gam.



Trivia Night Victory

By Liam Scholenleber

Every Wednesday night, Woody's Pizza holds a team trivia competition from 9-11 pm and it's become a regular activity among the brothers of FIJI to participate in this event. When the time comes around, brothers gather at the house to walk down to Woody's, looking forward to a good time.

Two weeks ago, on April tenth, brothers Liam Abell, Jake Wharton, Christian Talbert, Alec Pollard, Chris St. Laurent, and Deklan Brown under the name "The Biggest Rat," competed with 11 other teams. The competition was close all night, the team tying for podium positions throughout the game. Coming into the final question they were tied for second. The team decided to go all in for a final gambit, betting the maximum 15 points. Only being partly sure of the answer, they were left to guess, and they got it right. This shot team "The Biggest Rat" into first, securing the first win in recent memory with 70 points.



Chapter Leadership

Cabinet

President

Xavier Dibben

Rec Sec

Devon Rodriguez

Cor Sec

Christian Talbert

Treasurer

Evan-Jones Sayer

Historian

Alexander Zito

Committee Chairs

Evan Reeves

Jake Wharton

Kyle Collins

Lucas Holt

Ryan Freese (heya)

TJ Moore

Aidan Rosprim

Alex Strohke

Bob Slattery

Connor Kopel

Devin Miller

Jake Stanley

Kameron Salazar

Grad Spotlight: Alexander Miller

Theta Tetarton –

Graduating Spring 2024, MS Engineering & Tech. Management

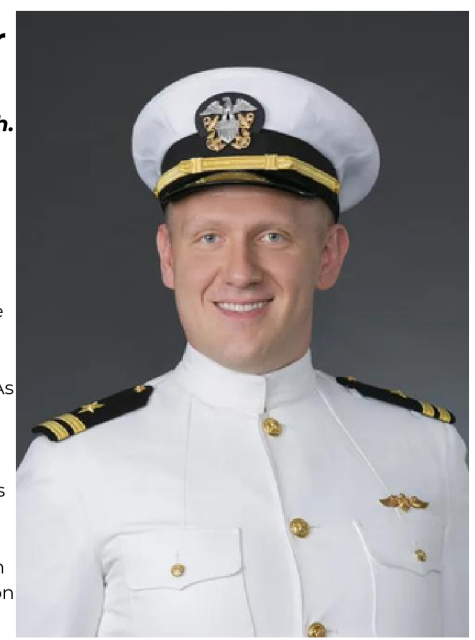
Undergraduate Class of 2015, of US Merchant Marine Academy, BS in Marine Engineering

**–
From Denver, CO**

Alex is a unique example of FIJI's motto, "Not for College Days Alone." He joined Mines' ETM program in January 2023 as a late enrollee after working as 1st Assistant Engineer on the USNS Brittin (T-AKR 305) for 11 months. As he was adjusting from ship life to college life, Tommy Gryboski (Alpha Tetarton) offered him a cup of hot chocolate during rush week and got his attention. He decided to try it out because the five values matched his own life principles in the past; and also because FIJI's approach to Greek life on campus was different and appealing, and it reminded him of the bond he had with his fellow midshipmen at USMMA. Alex's big was Kameron Salazar (Zeta Tetarton), which was ironic because Kameron is still in the Air Force ROTC, and Alex is a LT in the Navy Reserve.

The grizzled former engine room supervisor quickly learned the new vernacular of today, which when used, was uncanny to other service academy graduates in his ETM cohort. He regretfully learned about various anime shows, as well as being subjected to learn games like Magic the Gathering. He really enjoyed the post-recruitment chaos of JackboxTV games, the general chaos of the house between 7pm-11pm, frequent debates about "Freddynamics" with Connor Kopel (Eta Tetarton), and helping Ethan Pozzi (Theta Tetarton) with adding cool off-roading gear to his 4Runner. Given it was a decade since he took calculus, he was able to pass stochastic modeling with the tutoring of Ian Jhonston (Alpha Tetarton) by bribing him with nachos from Table Mountain Inn. In addition to running a seminar on higher education and networking, Alex constantly helped undergrads improve their resumes before every job fair. Brothers sought Alex for advice on professional development, career guidance, academic guidance, and personal matters. He aimed to participate in as much as he could in support of the chapter, and he also wishes to support FIJI in the future, whether in this chapter or elsewhere. He truly believes FIJI is very beneficial for the development of future high-performance leaders.

Alex was nominated by Rep. Diana DeGette to attend the US Merchant Marine Academy in 2011. He completed 360 days of cadet shipping, enjoyed cruises on Billy Joel's donated yacht "Redhead" on Power Squadron events, and graduated with a license of 3rd Assistant Engineer, Gas Turbine, Motors (Diesel), and Steam, with Unlimited Horsepower as well as a commission in the US Navy Reserve (IRR) in the Strategic Sealift Officer Program as Ensign. Between 2015 and now, Alex spent approximately 1300 days at sea, upgrading his License to 1st A/E (Unlimited HP, Motors) as well as Electro-Technical Officer; all primarily on the Bob-Hope Class LMSRs (Large, Medium-Speed, Roll-on Roll-Off) Military Sealift Command surge and preposition fleets. He's crossed the Panama Canal at least 6 times, the Suez canal twice, is a certificate-holding Shellback, has crossed the Atlantic and Pacific, and has been involved with merchant marine JLOTS exercises with the Navy, Army, and the Marines on several occasions.



FIJI has influenced and inspired him to hopefully pursue a PhD in Business Administration at DU, where he hopes to research how American shipping firms can stay competitive given the trend of more and more contested maritime routes and competitive labor practices.

Before embarking on furthering his education, he accepted mobilization orders in the Navy, in an active-duty capacity, for 6 months starting in July 2024. He is only authorized to tell us that he will effectively be a uniformed liaison between the joint forces and whatever merchant ship he is dispatched to. He's proud that he can leverage his merchant mariner background in this highly important exercise. For his safety, he will not reveal the nature of his mission or the routes that he may be assigned to further than that. He hopes to reconnect with us and the wider graduate network during the next Pig Dinner in 2025

Alex updated his information on <https://csmfijigrads.org/> and enthusiastically invites any FIJI to reach out and connect with him at any time, as he clearly believes that FIJI is Not for College Days Alone!



GRADUATING FIJIS

Carter Perun

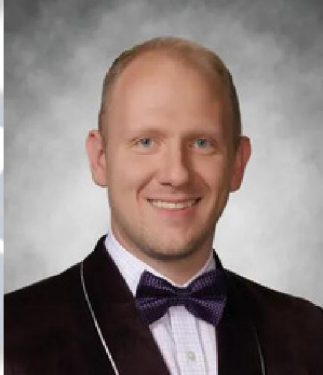
Comp Sci



"Sucking at something is the first step to becoming sorta good at something"

Alexander Miller

MS in Engineering and Tech Management



"A ship in harbor is safe, but that is not what ships are built for." -John A. Shedd

Ben Reinicke

Chemical Engineering



"Radical approachability, Radical love of knowledge, Radical humility:"

Caden McElligott

Mech- E: Manufacturing



Nicholas Brown

Comp Sci: Machine Learning and AI



"Make lemonade, make projects, do the things you like to do"

Christopher St. Laurent

Mech-E: Aerospace



"Nothing in this world can take the place of Persistence" - C Coolidge

If you are interested with connecting with one or more of these exceptional scholars please reach out to ryan11514@outlook.com for more information or to request contact information. Lets celebrate the achievements of our brothers together!

Through The Eyes:

Mines is challenging, and brothers often find fun ways to cool off after a hard test or a weeks worth of homework. Brothers took to the slopes this winter and spring season and graced Eldora, Winter Park, and Copper mountain with the FIJI presence as we shredded fresh pow through the trees and slopes



More often then not, you could find a brother or two carpooling all the way down to Copper at 5 in the morning to get that sacred first chair. GoPros were latched, skis waxed and yard sales were promptly had.

Over Spring break, brothers also went camping and got nice and far away from the wicked snowstorm Colorado blew in to help ease the pain of the exams right before spring break.



Back at FIJI, Brothers spent Spring break and the snowstorm huddled down, conserving warmth with the Pokemon Draft League, a tradition that stretches as far back as time. Brothers would duke it out between themselves in battle to climb the ladder and be crowned the finalist of the league.

The snowstorm CO had was also so intense that 24 inches of snow managed to close down school right before Spring Break. Snow forts and construction came about as FIJI worked on reinforcing our defenses against any potential threats with massive snow walls



Finally, DND. A game older than most of us. The brothers gather for game night every thursday to campaign along quests and adventures all on top of the pool table safe from the snow



Gamma Gladiator

*Evan Reeves
Iota-Tetarton*

Hey Brothers!

We are back with another Gamma Gladiator!

This Month I want to highlight Evan Reeves, our current Service Chair.

Evan has been doing an excelent job getting brothers to fuffill their service hours while keeping things tight and organized himself. Brothers have been able to easily find oppurtunitys to serve all around colorado because of him.

Evan himself is happy with how he has gotten himself more involved in the chapter over the semester, while also making it a priority to spend a lot of his free time around the house. He has gotten to meet a lot of new brothers and tackle challenges like Climbing and DND sessions

Keep it up Evan!



Dibben Diary



I am pleased to open this second installment of the Dibben Diary by extending heartfelt thanks to all of our graduate brothers who joined us for our chapter's 39th Pig Dinner. It was inspiring to see such a strong turnout, and the undergraduate brothers genuinely appreciated the opportunity to connect and learn from your experiences. We are proud to continually demonstrate that our motto, "FIJI is not for college days alone," embodies a lasting commitment far beyond our college years. I am also excited to announce the initiation of Brayden Hines, who was initiated on the Sunday following the Pig Dinner. Unfortunately, graduate brothers you will need to wait until next year's Pid Dinner to meet him. However, he is already a fantastic addition to our brotherhood. On the academic front, as we approach the end of the semester, my fellow undergraduate brothers are fully engaged in finalizing projects and preparing for their finals. Looking ahead, we are preparing to send our chapter's delegates to the 176th Ekklesia this summer in Chicago, Illinois. This will be a valuable opportunity for our delegates to engage with the broader fraternity, exchange ideas, and bring back new insights that will benefit our chapter. Thank you once again to all who contribute to the strength and vitality of our brotherhood.

Perge!

Xavier Dibben President

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Phi Gamma Delta- Gamma Kappa Chapter
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SCRAPBOOK

