

## THE FRATERNITY OF PHI GAMMA DELTA: GAMMA KAPPA CHAPTER



### History Night

Let's take a trip down memory lane and relive the magic of History Night (pictured above), a truly memorable event led by Graduate Brother, Pat Athey. Held on September 31st last year, this evening wasn't just about revisiting the past; it was about celebrating the rich history and significance of our beloved Gamma Kappa Chapter at Colorado School of Mines.

Under Pat's guidance, we embarked on a journey through time, exploring the fascinating history of our chapter and its profound impact on our university community. But the adventure didn't stop there! We also had the opportunity to traverse the streets of Golden, immersing ourselves in the history of Fiji and its enduring legacy.

Beyond the historical insights, History Night served as a phenomenal bonding experience for all involved. As we shared stories, laughter, and camaraderie, we not only deepened our connections with one another but also had the pleasure of welcoming newer brothers into our tight-knit fraternity family. In essence, History Night was more than just an event; it was a testament to the enduring bonds of brotherhood and the rich tapestry of memories that unite us all.



### Recruitment

Recruitment season has come and gone, leaving in its wake a trail of memories, laughter, and, most importantly, new brothers. As we reflect on the whirlwind of events that comprised our recruitment week, one thing becomes abundantly clear: it was a week to remember.

Kicking off with the enthusiasm and energy that only Phi Gamma Delta can muster, our recruitment week began with an open house that welcomed prospective members with open arms. From the moment they stepped through our doors, they were greeted with warmth and hospitality, setting the tone for the week ahead.

Tabling, a tried and true method of spreading the word about our fraternity, proved to be a resounding success once again. Withstanding the bitter cold of Colorado, our tabling efforts attracted a diverse array of individuals eager to learn more about what it means to be a Fiji. And let's not forget the infamous golf cart hot chocolate, a staple of our recruitment efforts that never fails to draw a crowd. As laughter echoed through the halls of our house, it was clear that a good time was had by all.



### Brother of the Week

*Lucas Holt.  
Theta-Tetarton*

#### Hey Brothers!

**Wanted to take a moment to give a shoutout to Lucas Holt, our stellar Recruitment Chair, for his outstanding work this semester. Lucas orchestrated a successful rush week, bringing in 8 new brothers to our Phi Gamma Delta family. His positive attitude and leadership set a welcoming tone for the house, making it a place where everyone feels at home.**

**On top of his recruitment efforts, Lucas is also excelling academically as an Order of Omega scholar at Colorado School of Mines. Plus, he's representing our school as a Student Ambassador, helping new students get acquainted with campus life. Big thanks to Lucas for his dedication and hard work. Here's to more achievements ahead!**



[HTTPS://WWW.MINESFIJI.ORG/](https://www.minesfiji.org/)  
[WWW.CSMFIJIGRADS.ORG](http://www.csmfijigrads.org)

## Recruitment (cont)

Friday brought with it Soup and Campfire night, a cozy affair led by our cooks and brothers. This set the stage for an evening of camaraderie and connection as we gathered around the fire to share stories and savor hearty bowls of soup as we prepared for our big week ahead of us.

And what an exciting weekend it was! Game night on Saturday, expertly organized by our recruitment team, offered a variety of activities to suit every taste. From intense board game battles to friendly rounds of Super Smash Bros, there was no shortage of entertainment to be had. And of course, no game night would be complete without a heaping serving of delicious mac and cheese to fuel our competitive spirits.

Sunday marked a pivotal moment in our recruitment journey, as we gathered for a big meeting to finalize plans and prepare for the week ahead. We assigned cooks, planned cleanup and prepared to get our homework done in a timely fashion.

Monday saw us embark on Tours and Trivia, with the added bonus of sampling FIJI's city-famous Chillimon Rolls. The perfect combination of culinary delights and house tours made for an unforgettable evening of bonding and camaraderie.

Tuesday brought the thrill of casino night, complete with high-stakes games and delectable jambalaya on the side. Led by our recruitment chair, Lucas Holt, and his dedicated team, the night was a resounding success, drawing in a crowd eager to test their luck and enjoy the festivities. Additionally, I had the pleasure of hosting a Marble Run competition with Nate, which added an extra element of excitement to the evening.

A mysterious sickness hit our house rather hard, and because of this we took Wednesday to recuperate. We had a good amount of the well and good brothers take a great handful of our new brothers to see the wondrous sight of our school all the way from the top of South Table Mountain! It was a wonderful time for brothers to bond and filled the gap in our calendar.

Thursday brought us together once again, this time for an evening of bowling. Though I wasn't personally there, reports from my fellow brothers paint a picture of sheer joy and camaraderie as they competed for strikes and spares.

As the week drew to a close, we celebrated our successes with a feast fit for kings at Cinzettis. With plates piled high with crepes, pizza, and pasta, we toasted to new beginnings and cherished memories made. We fought bravely against crepes and pasta to break the record for the amount of food eaten in one night and raised our glasses and loosened our belts.

In hindsight, our recruitment week was more than just a series of events; it was a testament to the bonds of brotherhood that unite us. Each moment, from the laughter-filled gatherings to the late-night adventures, served to reinforce the sense of community and belonging that defines Phi Gamma Delta. Come initiation, we welcomed 8 brand new brothers to our ranks

Here's to brotherhood, here's to Phi Gamma Delta, and here's to many more unforgettable recruitment weeks to come.



## NEW CABINET

### Xavier Dibben

President

From Beaumont, Alberta, I am a sophomore pursuing a major in Mining Engineering with a business emphasis through a 4+1 Engineering Technology and Management master's program. Post-graduation, I aim to join the NUPOC program. I joined FIJI in my second semester as Mines. Since joining, I have enjoyed my time and currently serve as the President of the chapter. In my spare time I am an avid sports fan and enjoy playing grand strategy games.



### Evan Jones-Sawyer

Treasurer



I spawned in Los Angeles, California and now studying towards a bachelors of science in mechanical engineering. I'm currently a junior and considering a track in Nuclear Engineering. I spend my time between musical theater and playing old school RPGs.

### Devon Rodriguez

RecSec



Born in San Antonio, Texas, I'm working on completing my bachelors in mechanical engineering with a specialization in aerospace engineering. Currently in my 3rd year of college and lovin the FIJI life. I enjoy a good hike every now and again, but mostly put free time into videogames.

### Alex Zito

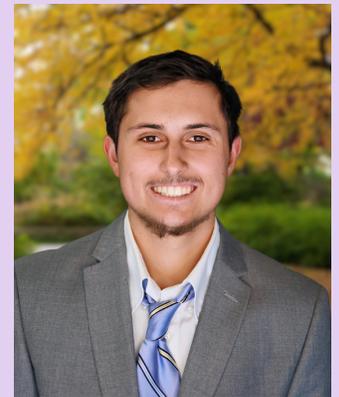
Historian



From Southlake, TX, I am a junior majoring in mechanical engineering with a focus on robotics. I joined FIJI my first semester at Mines, since then I have loved my time with FIJI and am now currently the Historian of the chapter. I enjoy playing video games and/or hanging out with friends.

### Christian Talbert

CorSec



From Simi Valley, California. I am currently working on completing my BS in Chemical Engineering and plan to graduate in December of this year. I joined Fiji the spring semester of my sophomore year at Mines and am having a great time as a member of the community. I love listening to music and doing random things with the other members of the fraternity.

## Academy

The Leadership Academy stands as a cornerstone of our commitment to fostering capable and visionary leaders within our fraternity. Crafted with precision and purpose, this program serves as a launchpad for new chapter officers, equipping them with the essential knowledge and skills necessary to steer their chapters towards success.

Each year, in the crisp dawn of early January, our fraternity gathers its eager minds to partake in the transformative journey that is the Leadership Academy. Here, participants are immersed in a comprehensive curriculum, meticulously designed to delve into the fundamental facets of chapter operations while simultaneously nurturing the seeds of higher-level leadership development. This year, as in years past, our newly appointed cabinet members embarked on this enlightening voyage. With open minds and hearts aflame with dedication, they immersed themselves in a whirlwind of workshops, seminars, and discussions, seasoned mentors and industry experts.

Academy was a pleasant time for all of Phi Gam as our newly appointed leaders got to meet past present and future leaders of other chapters.



## New Faces New Leaders

### Κ (Kappa Tetarton) New Brothers

Brody Mittelstadt  
Matthew Lucero  
Sam Wells  
Tim Dexter  
Juanmanuel Borraza  
Evan Majeski  
Jackson Neal  
Liam Schoenleber  
Karl Eisenbarth



### Committee Chairs

Evan Reeves  
Jake Wharton  
Kyle Collins  
Lucas Holt  
Ryan Freese (heya)  
TJ Moore  
Aidan Rosprim  
Alex Strohke  
Cob Slattery  
Connor Kopel  
Devin Miller  
Jake Stanley  
Kameron Salazar



## Grad Spotlight: Thorn Svendsen

### Alpha Triton Graduated 2011, BS ChemE From Sunny Valley

Thorn joined Fiji in Fall of 2007. He loved the way the chapter embraced its geek culture, and saw there was great potential for friends, leadership roles, and Mines undergrad population. Also, the full sized pool table helped clinch the decision.

Thorn was quickly selected as the recruitment chairman for Spring of 08, and was able to attend academy, where he was introduced to the Phired Up program. He learned techniques, tips and tricks to help the chapter grow, and to this day, Thorn thinks the recruitment chair is the most important position in the fraternity. Thorn wants to remind the chapter that they are always only 1-2 strong on campus, with the strongest grades, best participation and comradery, and national recognition they deserve. Conversely, we are always only 4-6 weak recruitments from ending the chapter and robbing future students of the magic of Fiji, and grads the pleasure of giving back to the chapter that gave us so much.

Thorn later was elected to be the recording secretary, president, and served on or chaired nearly every committee the chapter offered. Thorn has attended academies and Ekklesias numerous times, and always loves reminding himself how special our chapter is and what a unique role we fill in our international organization.

Thorn's favorite memories of the chapter include 2am conversations around the Phi hole, and during daylight hours seeing what games people were playing, anime they were watching, homework they were doing, etc. The chapter always provided awesome brothers who were willing to join you on adventures, whether that was attending a new club meeting, getting groceries, grabbing food out, trying a new board game, seeing a movie, or waiting in line for a new release. He was also constantly supported in his love for Music and Theatre, with huge numbers from the chapter coming out to support his performances in Mines Little Theatre (where he acted for 8 semesters and directed 3 shows) and his a capella group performances. (edited)

Thorn has written a number of Fiji songs (mostly parody style), including Another Fiji Drinking Song (sometimes seen at Pig Dinner), Half Man (half bear), and many more.

Frankly, Thorn would not have graduated without the constant support and academic assistance of his brothers, and the motivation they provided to achieve. Upon graduation, Thorn took a different route, choosing to leave the Chemical Engineering path and went full time into providing personal financial advice for individuals and families with Northwestern Mutual where he had interned for 2 years. Now, Thorn is a leader in the financial advising industry with over a decade of experience, having achieved his Certified Financial Planner designation (similar to a PE for finance) and his Chartered Financial Consultant, and is continuing to work to achieve new learnings to improve the outcomes for his clients. Thorn works with over 850 engineering families in 46 states, and loves the opportunity to work with Fiji brothers, their families and people they care about on a regular basis.



The last time he checked, he was engaging with over 50 Phi Gams and their families to help manage their financial planning, insurance, and investment needs. Thorn likes to summarize the work he does into 1) Helping people save more money than they would and on their own, and 2) helping people save it more efficiently than they would on their own. If he can help with one of those, people are happy, and if he can provide value in both areas, it can entirely change the trajectory of his clients' financial world.

Thorn loved continuing to participate in the fraternity after graduation, and was eventually allowed the opportunity to serve as purple legionnaire for a little over 5 years. During this time, Thorn was awarded the Mines Greek advisor of the year in back to back years, and placed in the IHQ Durrance award for most exceptional purple legionnaire in the international organization, judged on the basis of personality, leadership, rapport with chapter, and fraternity service. With the growing needs of his business and family, Thorn stepped away from the PL role, at which time the Archons presented him with a certificate of appreciation for outstanding service to the fraternity.

Thorn continues to engage with Gamma Kappa as it's BCA president, taking special interest in recruitment efforts, graduate involvement, and trying to assist in the maintenance of the contact info database for the chapter.

**Thorn lives in Lone Tree Colorado, with his wife Chelsey (CSM ME and EE 2012), son Xavior, daughter Aribella, and son Vincent. He loves DND, staying in touch with people via his life's work as a wealth management advisor, and all things geeky.**



# SCRAPBOOK



## Dibben Diary Presidential Statement of Intent

I am Xavier Dibben, hailing from Edmonton AB, and currently majoring in Mining Engineering with a 4+1 in Engineering Technology and Management. I joined the Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity in the spring of '23 and have recently been elected as the President of the Gamma Kappa Chapter. I take the position with much honor as this school and fraternity mean a great deal to me, and I promise that I will continue to serve the fraternity during and after my term. I am honored to be a part of an outstanding cabinet. We started off our term with a strong recruitment in which we have assembled a growth of 9 tremendously great gentlemen to our fraternity. Though the gentlemen all have different majors and ambitions for pursuing an education at Colorado School of Mines. They all strongly display the core of the value of our fraternity. Additionally, I am proud to get more Mining Engineers bringing our count to 3 as I was quite lonely during my initiate semester. Although recruitment week has come to pass, due to the implementation of continuous open bidding (recruitment 365) we look to add more to our esteemed roster over the course of the semester. Outside of the continuous recruitment, my cabinet will continue to focus on the implementation of the built-to-lead program and adhering to the necessary restructures spurred from the New Model produced by IHQ. The process has been steaming along as our new BTL chair Thomas Moore has done a fantastic job with the program. As many of the new gentleman looking forward to their initiate class retreat in which they will draft their initiate class constitution. In addition to the immediate objectives for our fraternity, my ambition for the rest of my term lies in the pursuit of knowledge. Knowledge will be pursued through the academics of brothers in the fraternity. I wish to have a semester in which every brother remains in good standing with the chapter. I recognize that Mines is a hard school however, with the strong brotherhood present within this chapter I believe my ambition to be obtainable. Nevertheless, I look forward to the rest of my term and I look forward to meeting many of you at the Chapter house and at Pig Dinner.

Xavier Dibben  
Pergé!