

Phi Gamma Delta Richmond

Rho Chi, Spring 2020

Inside this Issue

Presidential Address

Diamond Owl

Tim Finchem Honored

2020 Executive Board

Spring Recruitment

Community Service

Graduate Spotlight

Undergrad Spotlight

Leadership Awards

Athletic Support

Undergrad Achievements

Blast from the Past

Join PX LinkedIn Group

130 Years of Rho Chi

Dear Brothers,

I hope this newsletter finds you and your families healthy and happy. While our time together on campus was cut short, we were grateful for the time we did have, and were able to accomplish a lot. We were proud to welcome 14 new members into our brotherhood, we completed 150 hours of community service, we rallied to support Spider athletics, and as you can see in the Undergrad Achievements section, us Fiji's were working harder than ever both in and out of the classroom.

I am honored to have been elected President of the Rho Chi chapter, and I am so excited at the potential that we have moving forward. Using the vision and skills learned at Academy, we are working to create a more organized chapter so we can better pursue the values we all hold: Friendship, Knowledge, Service, Morality, and Excellence. We are well on our way and the results speak for themselves in this newsletter!

I regret not being able to meet each of you at this year's Norris Pig Dinner, but with any luck we will be returning for another great semester in the Fall and will have opportunities for us to once again gather as a brotherhood. In the meantime, be well and stay safe.

Perge!



William Sanchez
President, Rho Chi Chapter

Diamond Owl Award

Diamond Owl Awards are given to honor brothers who have enjoyed 75 years of membership in Phi Gamma Delta.

Thomas Ligon was initiated to the Rho Chi chapter in 1945. He studied Business Administration, and was involved with an exercise program for students and veterans on campus, which he found very rewarding. His favorite memories are activities and gatherings at the Fraternity House on Towana Road, where the Phi Gam crest still is on stone above the door (pictured right). He graduated in 1949, and as a graduate has continued to attend Pig Dinner and other gatherings. After graduation, Brother Tom worked in the transportation industry, first at Overnite Transportation in Sales and Marketing, then at EPES Transportation where he was the VP of Sales & Marketing. He travelled extensively covering territories from Connecticut to Georgia. He enjoys hunting, fishing, and photography. Tom is very active at Rover Road Baptist Church where he has taught Sunday School and served as Chairman of the Board of Deacons. He now lives at Cedarfield Retirement Community in Richmond.

While we were disappointed it did not happen in person at Pig Dinner this year, we are very proud to award Brother Ligon the Diamond Owl Award and look forward to seeing him at next year's Pig Dinner. Congratulations, Tom!



Tom Ligon PX'49



Former Rho Chi House

Tim Finchem PX '69 Honored

Brother Finchem had an early love for Golf, when at age 8 he started following his father around at the Naval Base in Norfolk. After college and a foray into politics, he joined the PGA, serving as the Chief Operating Officer. Five years later, in 1994, he became commissioner.

He tended to the public image of the game and managed the logistics of tournament infrastructure. During his two decades with the PGA Tour he charted a creative strategy for growth through the Great Recession, the rise and fall of Tiger Woods, and a boom in golf's mainstream popularity.

The Tour saw unprecedented television contracts, massive increases in prize money, and the establishment of signature new initiatives. The widening market base led to the creation of more golf stars, which led to a stronger fan base.

Under Finchem's leadership, the Tour also became a charitable powerhouse. Each year PGA Charities gives millions of dollars to more than 3,000 charities. One of Finchem's achievements as commissioner was the establishment of the First Tee, an organization whose mission is to "impact the lives of young people by providing educational programs that build character, instill life-enhancing values, and promote healthy choices through the game of golf."

Before he served as the PGA Tour commissioner, Finchem served as a deputy advisor to President Carter in the Office of Economic Affairs before working on President Carter's re-election campaign. He also founded a marketing and strategies firm. Read the University of Richmond magazine article on his career [here](#).



Meet the 2020 Executive Board



President
William Sanchez

New York, NY
Business Administration:
Finance and Accounting

Involved in DSP Business
Fraternity and Club
Volleyball



Treasurer/VP
Jackson Gsell

Williamsburg, VA
Business Administration:
Finance and Marketing

Involved in DSP Business
Fraternity, SAP
Leadership Fraternity,
and Spider Marketing
Association



*Corresponding
Secretary*
Joshua Zimmerman

From Philadelphia, PA
Business Administration:
Economics and Business
Analytics

Involved in Spider
Marketing Association
and Club Track and Field



Historian
Joseph Abitanta

Mount Kisco, NY
Film Studies
Sociology

Involved in the French
Film Festival



Recording Secretary
Sanjay Foster

Philadelphia, PA
Business Administration:
Finance

Involved in Robins School
of Business Senate and
Orientation Advisement

Spring 2020 Recruitment

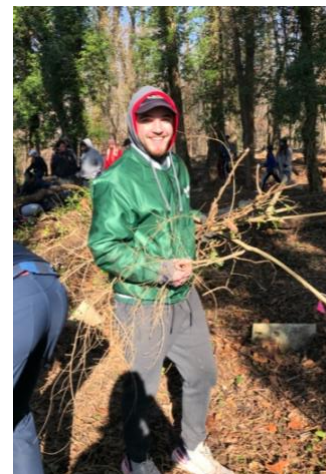
On Sunday, March 1st we welcomed 14 new brothers into the Rho Chi chapter. These newly initiated brothers hail from across the country and bring a wide variety of exciting new skills, interests, and personalities to our Fraternity. Through the pledging process they learned about the history of the Fraternity, developed their professional skills, and gave back to both the chapter and the greater Richmond community. Most importantly, they became brothers not only in name, but in the friendships they built with one another and the rest of the Fraternity.



*Top Row Left to Right: Ben Pearson, Robbie Driscoll, Griffin Victorson, Will Mauro, Ryan Sanford, Jack Dumouchel, Harry Rakos
Middle Row Left to Right (the three in the middle on the right): Will McKane, Jack Ridilla, Dom Picone.
Bottom Row Left to Right: John Kan, Evan Pittenger, Spencer Organ, Jack Cromwell.*

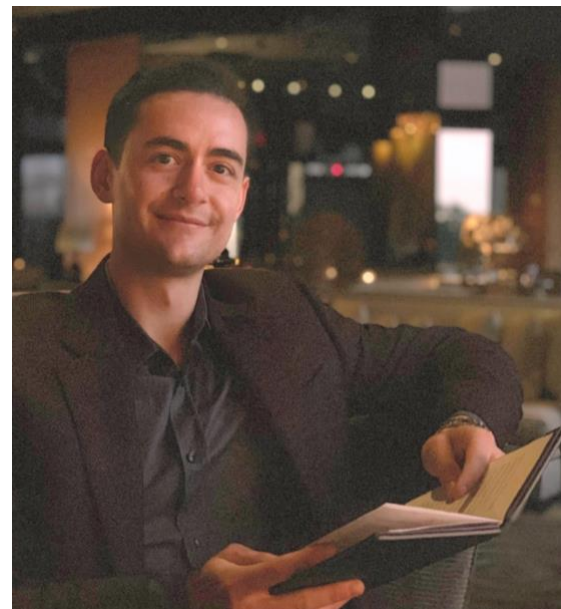
Community Service

Led by brother Mitch Lauria, the chapter completed 150 hours of community service this semester. This time was used to clean up historic Evergreen Cemetary (shown in the photos), help with the school's sustainability efforts through their "Go Green" initiative, and provide aid to veterans, first responders, and EMS staff.



Graduate Spotlight

Brother Tim Peyser (PX '19) is from Rochester, NY. Tim works as a Private Equity Associate for RSM in New York City. In a normal day, he wakes up early to work out and is in the office by 6:45am. He begins the day by doing market research and preparing for his meetings, then spends most of the day on calls with clients. He ends the day with internal strategy calls and goes home around 8:30p. On the job, he has travelled to London for a take-private from the London Stock Exchange and attended the 2020 JP Morgan Healthcare Investor Conference. Tim enjoys skiing and golfing, and his favorite Fiji memory from college is spending time brothers and their families at the lodge after graduation.



Undergraduate Spotlight

Brother Mitch Lauria (center in photo) is from Rumson, NJ, and is majoring in Business Administration with concentrations in Business Analytics and Management Consulting. Brother Lauria joined the Sea Bright's Lifeguard Service in 2017 and has since been promoted to Sergeant on the aquatic rescue response team. Mitch has been tasked with reconstructing Sea Bright Ocean Rescue's Junior Guard Program, one of the most important elements of Sea Bright's Lifeguard Service. This summer he will be coordinating the education of preventative drownings and lifesaving for over 250 members of the local youth community. Mitch says, "The program has many benefits that range from breeding future lifeguards to preventing childhood drownings. Our goal is to educate these youth to not only protect themselves in the water, but have the necessary skills to save a life should the time arise."



Honorary Leadership Awards

The Rho Chi House Corporation is charged with the responsibility of reviewing applications from the undergraduates and awarding Leadership Awards each year for a Sophomore and a Junior. In recognition of their many years of service to the chapter, House Corp voted unanimously to name the awards in honor of Anthony (Tony) Sakowski PX '65 (top photo) and John Moreau PX '64 (bottom photo).

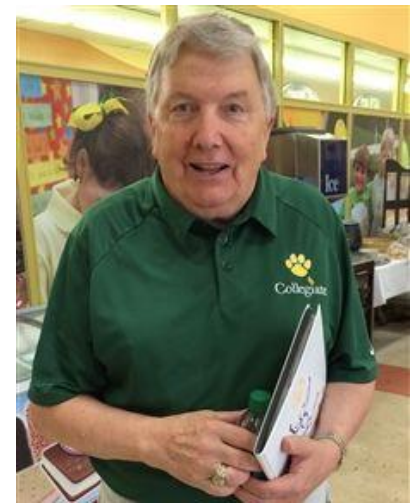
As an undergraduate, Tony was involved with intramural sports, and was elected President his Junior year. After graduating in 1965, he attended medical school and served in the Navy for two years. After that, he began a three year residency in eye surgery, followed by a one year fellowship. Brother Sakowsky practiced eye surgery for 37 years and founded the Virginia Eye Institute. His wife, Kate, comes from a family of Phi Gams. Tony led the House Corp for thirty years and was instrumental in the establishment of the Col. Pete Dunford Memorial Fund, the construction of the Jepson Brothers Room, and the establishment of the Leadership Award funding from the proceeds of the sale of the lodge to the university. He now enjoys hunting with his bird dogs, fishing, skiing, improving his tennis game, sailing with his wife, and spending time with his grandchildren.

In his undergraduate years, Brother Moreau served as both Recruitment and IM Chairs, as well as helping to organize Greek Week. He received a Bachelor of Arts in Education and Physical Education in 1964 and received a Master of Education in Administration and Guidance in 1971. He spent 7 years in the Richmond public school system and 34 at Collegiate School. As a graduate brother he has served as the Graduate Chapter President, the Purple Legionnaire for Rho Chi, the Coordinator of Communication and Recognition for graduates, and has helped organize Pig Dinner for many years. Brother Moreau lives with his wife, Lynn, and has three children and eight grandchildren. He now splits his time between being a Deacon at First Baptist Church, a Board Member of the Virginia Special Olympics, and other community involvements including being an avid Spider fan.

The recipient of this year's Tony Sakowski Honorary Sophomore Leadership Award in the amount of \$4,000 is William Barnett. The 2020 John Moreau Honorary Junior Leadership Award in the amount of \$4,000 goes to Sanjay Foster. In addition, the House Corp was able to grant a \$2,000 award to both Kevin Spear and Hunter Chalhub with funds that were allocated for last year's award program, but were not awarded. Congratulations to these brothers!



Tony Sakowski PX '65



John Moreau PX '64

FJI's Support Spider Athletics

Brothers of the Rho Chi chapter gather at the Robins Center to support University of Richmond Athletics. These brothers have rallied students and fans to help Richmond Men's Basketball achieve one of the most successful seasons in school history. They have competed in various half-time challenges and can be frequently seen cheering on the jumbotron! Pictured left to right: Cam Levy, Mitch Lauria, Keaton Muench, and Charlie Bugg.



Undergraduate Achievements

Joe Abitanta – Organizer of the UR French Film Festival

Landin Barney – Became EMT certified

William Barnett – Dean's List, promoted to CFO of Spider Advertising, elected into the Richmond College Senate

Charlie Bugg – Recipient of the Class of 1964 Scholarship

Hunter Chalhub – Dean's List & A List, accepted to Gateway Capital Management club

Jack Cromwell – Dean's List & A List

Sanjay Foster – Elected into the Robins School of Business Senate

Cam Levy – Created a podcast on The Bachelor and baseball. Find it on Apple Podcasts [here](#)

Will McKane – Dean's List

Gavin McKendrick – Nominated for NSCRO All Star Rugby Team

Dom Picone – Dean's List

Jack Ridilla – Invited to present his paper on presidential decision analysis at the VACAS Conference

Kevin Spear – Elected AKPsi Pledge Master, Elected into the Richmond College Senate as VP of Finance

Blast from the Past



Cow in the lodge, 1959-1960

If you know the story behind this, email us back and let us know!

Join our LinkedIn Group & Visit the New Website

Join the Rho Chi professional network to support and connect with one another in our pursuit of successful, impactful, and meaningful careers. Click [here](#) to become a member!

Visit our all-new website:

www.richmondfiji.com

