This document contains significant dates, people, and traditions throughout the 170-year history of Archania. While not a comprehensive list, those included here are essential to preserving Archania’s history as well as maintaining the traditions that have helped to build the foundation and character of the Brotherhood.

But first, we would like to share an excerpt from the preface of the Archania HIstory and Register, composed to honor Archnia’s seventy-fifth birthday. While written in 1929, the sentiments and ideals conveyed below remain as true for us today as they did nearly a century ago.

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“For seventy-five years, under the name of Archania, young men of Pacific have banded together in a spirit of brotherhood and fraternalism. They have set up an ideal, objectified it, named it, and then served it. Through the years, Archania has developed a tradition and along with that tradition a certain spirit, intangible yet very real. We like to feel that there is something peculiarly Archanian to that spirit. As we cast our eye over the pages of history we find that all great movements have been founded upon an idea, yet surrounding that idea has been a spirit which gave it life and vitality. In like manner, the idea of Archania has been given drive and stimulation through the spirit of Archania. Highly emotionally yet tempered by wisdom, it has given direction as well as force to Archania. It has been born of men who, for the most part, have enjoyed common ideals, common standards of living, and, as the years have gone by, a common past. Such things have seemed of such a binding and vital nature that men have been willing to sacrifice themselves in order to secure their perpetuation. It is the spirit of sacrifice, this spirit of love and devotion to Archania and all that she signifies for us, that has acted as a dynamic force since the days of her incipiency. Although by no means losing self-identification or individuality, the individual has become somewhat amalgamated into the group. A gradual but encouraging change of attitude takes place where the individual begins to place Archania before self, and in so doing comes to a new and inspiring realization of the significance of the brotherhood. Exposed to such an atmosphere, new men whose backgrounds often have had little in common have been held together and have found their relation and duty to the group. They have learned the joy of living together, of sharing experiences, and giving in to one another when need be.”

— Lawrence Berger, ‘31

**Archania History**

* Founded as the Archania Literary Society in 1854 at the University of the Pacific in Santa Clara, CA, by Thomas H. Laine, Joseph C. Hammer, John Owen, and John C. Hester.
* As a literary society, the group often engaged in debates on matters of national and local importance.
* In 1858, Archania split and Rhizomia was formed.
* In 1891, almost two-thirds of the Pacific students staged a mass migration to the newly opened Stanford Campus, leaving Archania with only 2 members. But Archania rebuilt itself.
* In 1915, Wilbur E. Bailey wrote “The Archite Creed,” an honor bestowed upon the brother who exemplified the ideals of Archania set forth by the Founding Fathers.
* In 1924, Archania and the rest of the Pacific campus moved to Stockton, CA.
* That same year, construction on Archania’s house began at 803 Presidents Drive. Designed by John Upton Clowdsley, a local architect who practiced primarily in San Joaquin County, construction of the house was finished in 1926.
* In 1925, upon the recommendation of Dr. Fred Farley, professor of Ancient Languages, Archania chose the letters **AKΦ –** **Alpha Kappa Phi** as her Greek symbols and became a social fraternity.
* In 1935, Archania sold its house to the University of the Pacific. For the next 66 years, Archania lived in the house at 803 Presidents Drive until the house was taken over by Sigma Chi in the fall of 2001.
* From 1961–1978 , Archania affiliated with the National fraternal organization Phi Kappa Tau. Ultimately, the National organization did not live up its promises so we became Alpha Kappa Phi – Archania once again.
* From 1978–2001, Archania continued to prosper, winning multiple Band Frolic awards, taking home the Homecoming Float Sweepstakes award four years in a row, and developing a culture of leadership not only in the house but throughout the campus.
* In the late spring of 2001, due to a change in campus policies and politics and a shift in the dynamics of Archania, we were once again compelled to affiliate with a National fraternal organization. Unfortunately, Sigma Chi, the National that we affiliated with, refused to incorporate the history and traditions of Archania into its UOP chapter. Most of the history and many of the traditions that helped to define Archania and what it meant to be an Archite were not continued with the Sigma Chi membership.

**Archania Traditions**

* In the early 1930s, the music and lyrics for “Sweetheart of Archania” were written by Kemp Farley (son of Dr. Fred Farley, who gave us our letters). The song was later sung to honor the Archania Sweethearts (known as LIttle Sisters at other fraternities), who became an integral part of Archania’s traditions.
* In 1941, the **Belle** tradition of Archania began when Dorris Johnson, a Tau Kappa Kappa sorority pledge, was held following a raid by the sorority’s pledges on Archania’s Bell Room, which is where the fraternity kept its collection of historic bells. During her stay overnight, she was playfully referred to as the “**Belle of Archania.”** The next year Archania began its tradition of holding an annual Belle Function where we would nominate a young woman from one of the sororities to serve as Archania’s Belle (the first Belle was Carol Cole). Later, once the fraternity began the tradition of selecting Archania Sweethearts, the Belle would be nominated and chosen from the existing active Sweethearts.
* In 1949, Archania presented the San Jose-Pacific Game Bell to the student body. The Bell, being a symbol of the intense rivalry between the Pacific and San Jose football programs, was shuttled between the two schools in accordance with the victorious team. During the 1970s, the significance and tradition for which the Bell stood became neglected by the custodial counterparts in San Jose. After recovering the bell from San Jose in the Fall of 1982, the San Jose-Pacific Game Bell tradition was rejuvenated and continued until Pacific discontinued its football program in 1996. The following year, the San Jose Bell tradition was changed from football to basketball, a tradition that we intend to continue moving forward.
* In 1956, the Fire Truck tradition began with the purchase of our first fire truck, a 1930s Seagrave. (A second fire truck, a 1952 International, was purchased in 1981). The purchase of the first fire truck helped to precipitate the inaugural Fireman’s Fling, an annual celebration that traditionally takes place at the end of the Spring semester to commemorate the graduation of the new pledge class to full-fledged Brothers.
* House Birthday, the celebration of the founding of Archania in 1854, is held by the active membership in the fall of each year.
* Wedding Belle Bash is an annual event held in the fall to celebrate the new Belle of Archania and the new class of Archania Sweethearts.
* Weekly House Yell / Singing after house meetings is held to help build camaraderie while paying homage in song to the spirit of Archania.
* The Archite Creed is willed down to the brother who best exemplifies the ideals of Archania and the concepts of Loyalty, Friendship, Sacrifice, and Brotherly Love.
* House Historian(s) is a willed or elected position appointing a brother or brothers who will be responsible for maintaining the fraternity’s history books and archives.

**The Crest of Archania**

* The Crest of Archania is paramount to our identity and the ideals and principles upon which Archania was founded and stands.
* Surmounting the shield is the figure-head of the Ancient Egyptian, which represents the early civilizations that gave us the basic concepts that remain relevant today.
* In the upper portion of the field of blue is the laurel of knowledge, a token of our motto: "Laureus Super Montem Scientiae Carpe" or "seek ye the laurels of knowledge which are upon the heights."
* Completing that precept is the obelisk in the lower field of blue. It signifies that knowledge is not easily obtained but remains high in the heavens, always pointing into the darkness of space and eternity from which it came. The obelisk also symbolizes the recording of information so that this knowledge may be passed on to those who follow. It would be an immense waste of resources should we not learn from those who have preceded us.
* The four stars upon the white diagonal represent the main virtues of Archania: **Loyalty**, **Friendship**, **Sacrifice**, and **Brotherly Love**.
* Embossed in yellow to further augment the sky blue and canary yellow colors of Archania is the **Pyramid**. For centuries, the pyramid has stood. To the ancients, it seemed like a gigantic figure pointing heavenward from whence came all infinite knowledge and omnipotence. Centuries of storms have battered its equilateral sides. It has witnessed cycles of barbaric and civilized cultures. Since it was conceived, the fickleness of man has impelled him to seek many gods. Yet, inside the enshrined walls there still remains the divine ideal of its planners.
* The pyramid was selected by the founding fathers of Archania as the symbol for our organization because it expresses stability, firmness, and enduring qualities. As the pyramid has preserved its shape and structure throughout the ages, so may Archania be guided by the light of truth in order to preserve the qualities of fellowship on which it stands.

**Guiding Principles**

* While not part of Archania’s Crest, another of our guiding principles, and arguably the most important, is the concept of **Diversity Within Unity**. We prioritize a unified Brotherhood from the first week of pledging (Unity Week), where we focus on the importance of working together as a team. But along with that, we emphasize that diversity and individuality within a unified Brotherhood is what ultimately gives Archania its strength.
* A gradual but encouraging change of attitude takes place where the individual begins to place Archania before self, and in so doing comes to a new and inspiring realization of the significance of the brotherhood.